STORY SERIES

Home made Home

ASHIHARA Hinako

ISSUE COMICS
SPECIAL
1496

Homemade Home

ASHIHARA Hinako

대원씨아이

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이 작품은 小學館과 독점 계약한 작품이므로
무단 복제할 경우 법의 제재를 받습니다

ITSUMI'S MOTHER, KEI, IS A WASHED-UP ACTRESS. ONE DAY, ITSUMI MEETS A LADY WITH A SEVERE HEART CONDITION AND RECEIVES AN INVITATION TO HER HOUSE. THE HOUSE, WHICH ITSUMI THINKS OF AS THE IDEAL FAMILY HOME, WAS JUST A PERFORMANCE ARRANGED FOR THE LADY. AMONG THE FAMILY MEMBERS, ITSUMI MEETS SHUU, A VERY POLITE BOY, AND IS PERSUADED TO PLAY IN A THEATRE... ?!

Home made Home
A LOVE STORY SERIES
ASHIHARA Hinako

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Homemade Home

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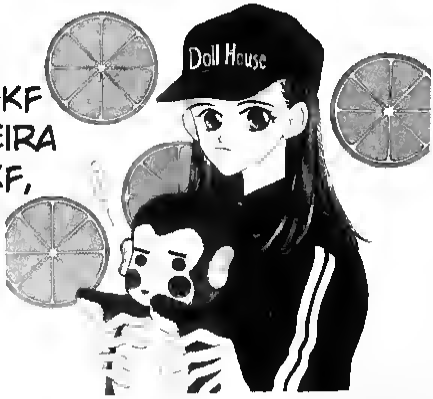
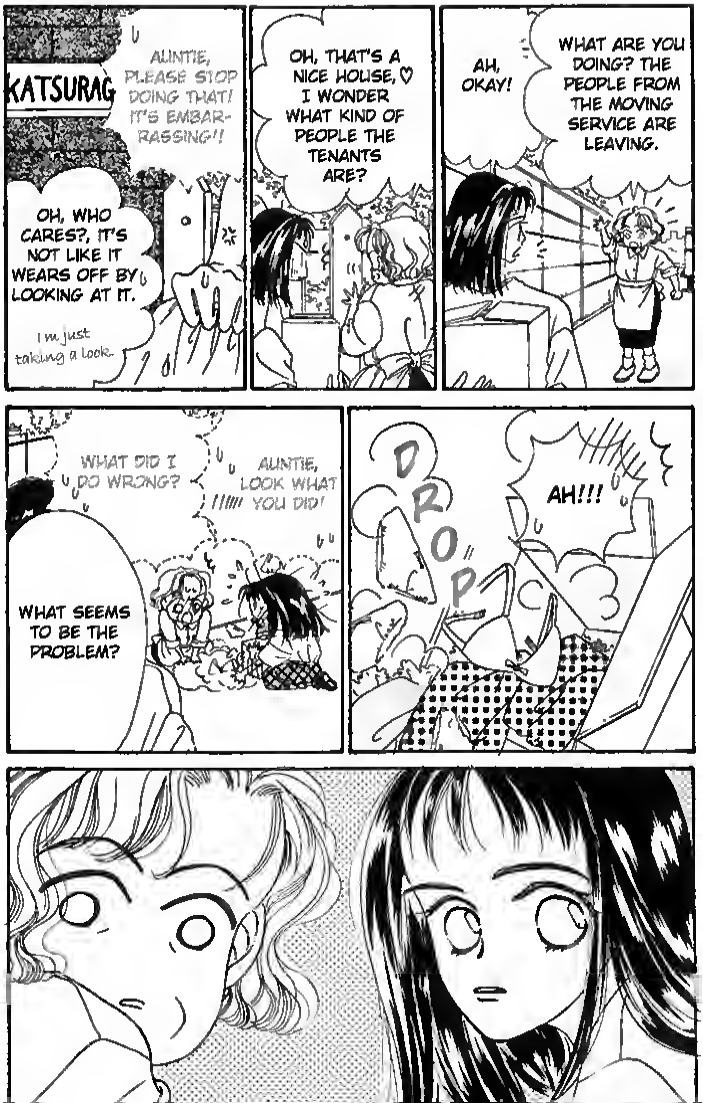
Home
made
Home

HOMEMADE HOME BY ASHIHARA HINAKO
JAPAENSE ISBN ?
KOREAN ISBN 89-528-7427-7
CEASE DISTRIBUTION IF LICENSED
PLEASE HELP SUPPORT THIS MANGAKA BY
PURCHASING MANGA BY HER
HER MANGA 'FORBIDDEN DANCE' IS
AVAILABLE IN ENGLISH BY TOKYOPOP

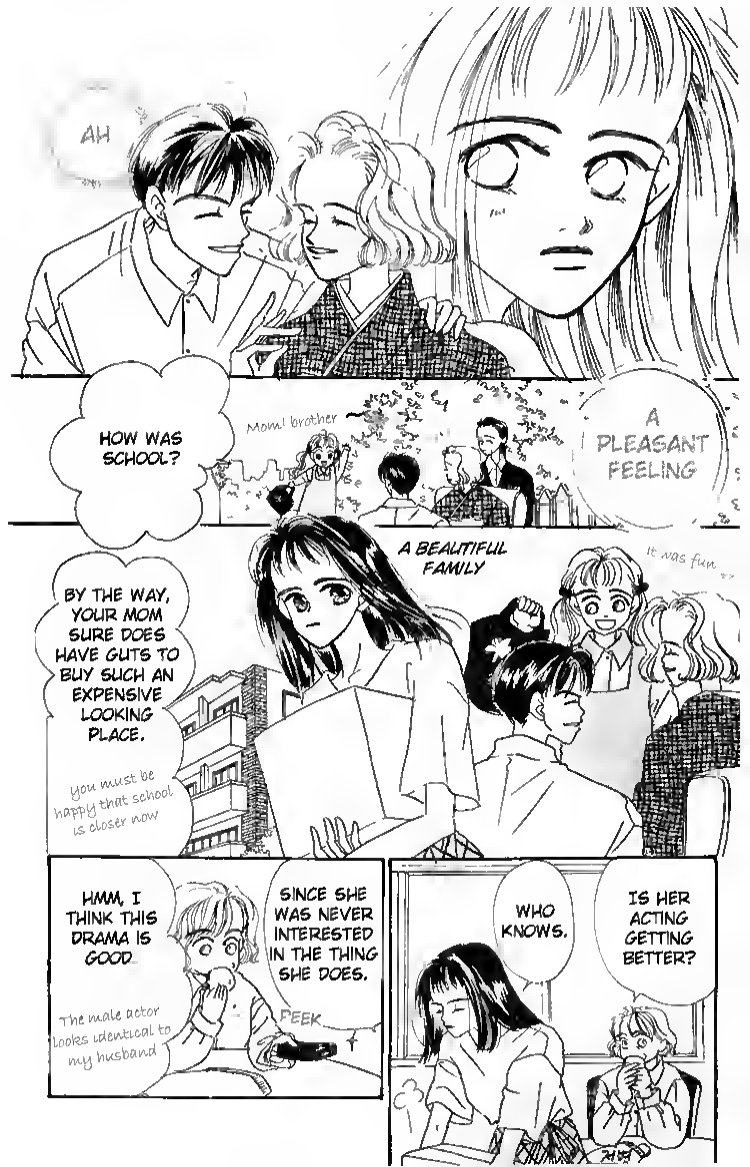


SCANNER: MEGKF
TRANSLATOR: KEIRA
EDITORS: MEGKF,
RYO^M

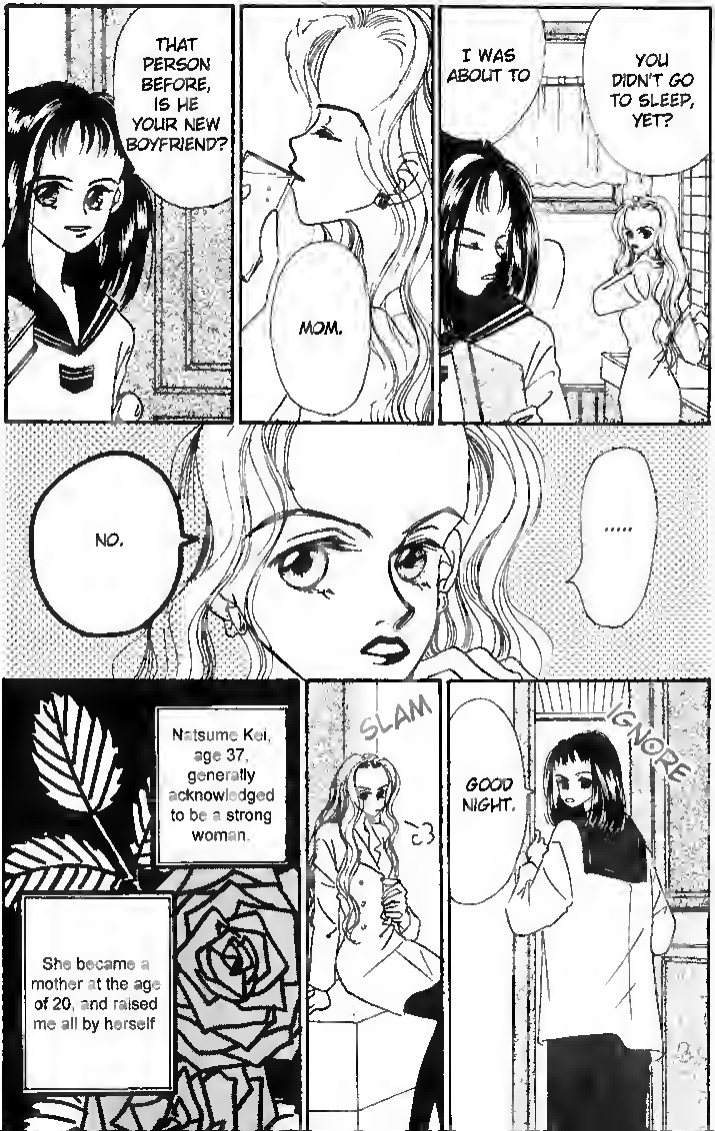
AN IDEAL HOME
ITSUMI!


KATSURAG
AUNTIE, PLEASE STOP DOING THAT! IT'S EMBARRASSING!!
OH, WHO CARES?, IT'S NOT LIKE IT WEARS OFF BY LOOKING AT IT.
I'm just taking a look.
OH, THAT'S A NICE HOUSE, ♡ I WONDER WHAT KIND OF PEOPLE THE TENANTS ARE?
AH, OKAY!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING? THE PEOPLE FROM THE MOVING SERVICE ARE LEAVING.
WHAT DID I DO WRONG?
AUNTIE, LOOK WHAT YOU DID!
WHAT SEEMS TO BE THE PROBLEM?
DROP
AH!!!

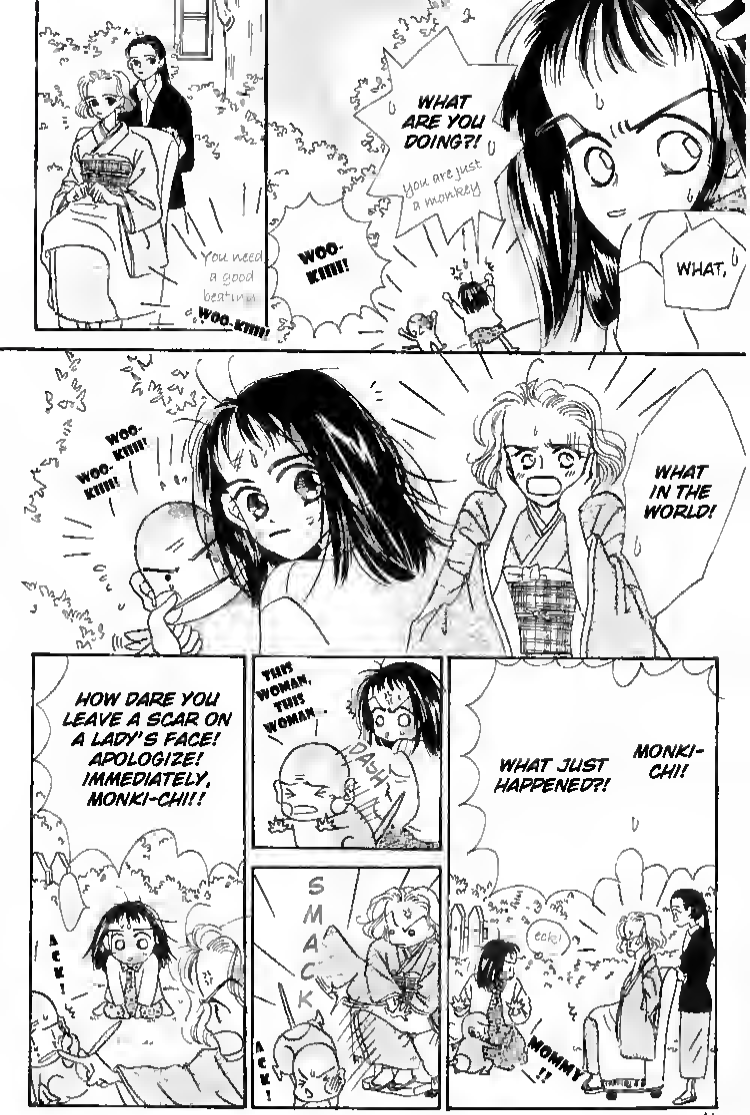
DO YOU HAVE SOME BUSINESS AT MY HOUSE?
PUSH
PUSH
CHE!
MASAO!
WAIT, THAT BOY ISN'T BAD.
Let me introduce myself
AUNTIE!
IT'S NOTHING!!
DASH


AH
HOW WAS SCHOOL?
Mom! brother
A PLEASANT FEELING
A BEAUTIFUL FAMILY
It was fun
BY THE WAY, YOUR MOM SURE DOES HAVE GUTS TO BUY SUCH AN EXPENSIVE LOOKING PLACE.
You must be happy that school is closer now
HMM, I THINK THIS DRAMA IS GOOD
The male actor looks identical to my husband
SINCE SHE WAS NEVER INTERESTED IN THE THING SHE DOES.
PEEK
WHO KNOWS.
IS HER ACTING GETTING BETTER?

I love you
Me too, Madam.
MY MOM IS AN ACTRESS FOR AN UNPOPULAR MORNING DRAMA
SLAM
KII KII
I'D BETTER GET GOING HOME NOW !!!
Good bye
CLACK
COMING NOW?
SIGH


THAT PERSON BEFORE, IS HE YOUR NEW BOYFRIEND?
MOM.
I WAS ABOUT TO
YOU DIDN'T GO TO SLEEP, YET?
NO.
.....
Natsume Kei, age 37, generally acknowledged to be a strong woman.
She became a mother at the age of 20, and raised me all by herself
SLAM
GOOD NIGHT.
IGNORE

Though I don't like it, she is my only family.
Hisumi 6 years old
I don't mind
I USED TO CRY MY EYES OUT, BEGGING FOR A PIANO
I want to get on the swing
HUH? I HEAR THE SOUND OF A PIANO.
THE MORE I LOOK AT IT, THE MORE I BELIEVE THIS IS THE REAL HOME.
YADDI YADDI YA.
MUNCH MUNCH
AT 3:00PM, THE MOTHER BAKES A CAKE.
you better do as I say
SMACK
MON-KICK
SLIDE

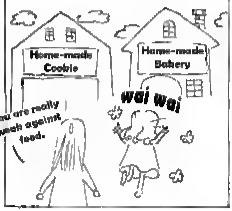

You need a good beating!
WOO-KIIII!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
You are just a monkey
WOO-KIIII!
WHAT,
WOO-KIIII!
WOO-KIIII!
WHAT IN THE WORLD!
HOW DARE YOU LEAVE A SCAR ON A LADY'S FACE! APOLOGIZE! IMMEDIATELY, MONKI-CHI!!
ACK!
THIS WOMAN, THIS WOMAN...
DASH
S M A C K
ACK!
WHAT JUST HAPPENED?!
MONKI-CHI!!
eeks!
MOMMY!!

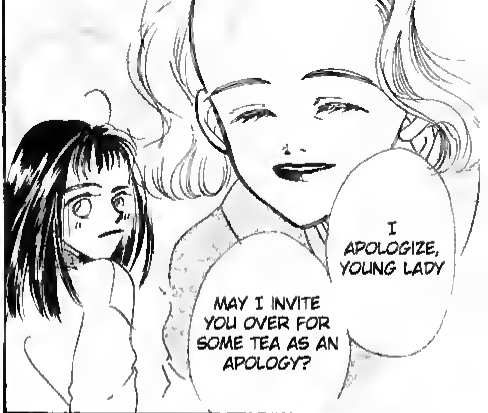
I

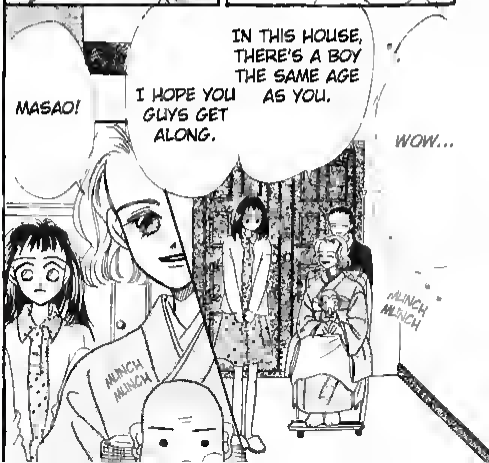
How do you do? This may be the first time introducing myself to most of you. My name is Ashihara.

This is the fourth book of mine that has been published. Although I have many other books that I've done and have organized neatly on my bookshelf, I'm still not very confident.

I believe that someday, I will have more confidence in my work... or maybe never.







OH, YOU KNOW EACH OTHER?
I APOLOGIZE ABOUT YESTERDAY.
such an embarassing sight.
AH... yesterday
MOM!
HA, HA, HA....
MUNCH
ITSUMI, I DOUBT YOU'LL BE INTERESTED IN SUCH A SLUGGISH PERSON.
HE'S 18 YEARS OLD AND DOESN'T EVEN HAVE A SINGLE GIRLFRIEND.
THAT'S GREAT.
HO HO HO HO
SLAM
ANYWAYS.....
ALRIGHT, ALRIGHT THE INTERFERENCE SHALL DISSAPPEAR----
MUNCH
MOM!

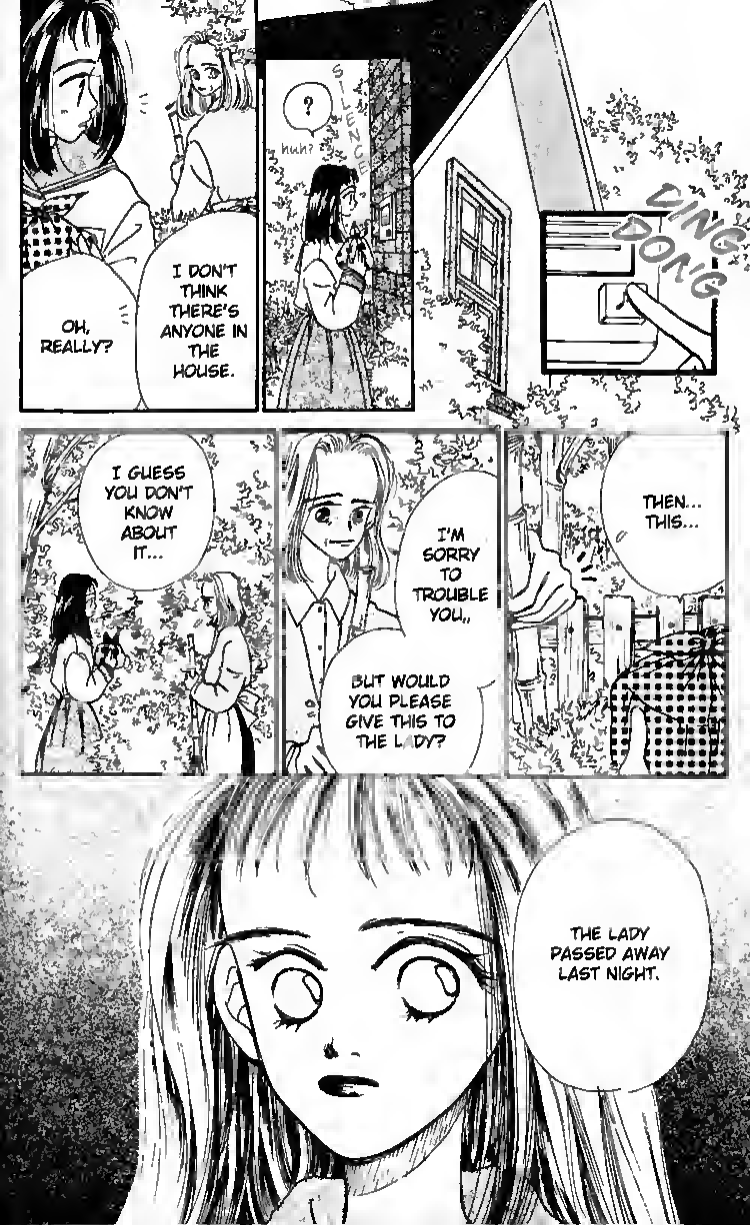
OPEN
OH, THERE'S A GUEST?
AH, HA HA
I'M SORRY.
WELCOME HOME!
MUNCH MUNCH
AH, HI - I'M THE HEAD OF THE HOUSE.
SHE MOVED INTO THE APARTMENT NEXT TO US YESTERDAY.
SHE'S MY FRIEND ITSUMI.
She's pretty!
Why so nervous and polite?
Hello
THIS IS DELICIOUS!
EH HE...
She cooks very well.
THIS DISH IS MADE BY ITSUMI.

Kyaaah! How impressive!
LET ME WALK YOU HOME.
ITSUMI,
THEN, I'LL BE LEAVING.
DON'T WORRY ABOUT SUCH THINGS. PLEASE, COME AGAIN.
I APOLOGIZE FOR THE INTRUSION. IN THE END, I STAYED THROUGH DINNER.
IS IT GOING TO BE ALRIGHT?
OK.
Shall we go inside?
YOU HAVE A WONDERFUL FAMILY.
Where is Moniel-chi?
WOO-KII!
He's right here.

HA
HEY...
ah ha ha ha ha
MY FAMILY IS NO GOOD.
I ENVY YOU.
VERY CARING PARENTS, AND A WONDERFUL HOME.
PLEASE. WOULD YOU NOT COME OVER TO OUR HOUSE AGAIN?
it seems...
IS YOUR MOM FEELING UNWELL?
ITSUMI.
WAIT A MINUTE!
I JUST WANTED TO SAY THAT.
THEN ...
WHAT ...

IT'S JUST BETTER IF YOU DON'T GET INVOLVED WITH OUR FAMILY,
THAT'S ALL.
WHAT ...
BUT IF YOU'RE GOING TO GIVE ME THAT KIND OF ATTI-TUDE...
IF IT IS BECAUSE I JUST ABRUPTLY WENT INTO YOUR HOUSE, THEN I'M SORRY.
IT'S NOT BECAUSE OF YOU.
SHARING A BIT OF YOUR HAPPI-NESS WILL NOT KILL YOU!
WHAT IS IT, REALLY?
BUT I DON'T PLAN TO PLAY ALONG AND PITY YOU.
I'M SORRY,
ALWAYS ALONE!
ALL THIS TIME I HAVE BEEN ALONE
WHEN I EAT OR WHEN I DRINK TEA!

IF YOU NEED A MOTHER, PLEASE LOOK ELSEWHERE.
STARE
AL-THOUGH I MADE IT.
AH, IT'S GOOD.
MUNCH MUNCH
CHEW CHEW
If you know a good recipe, teach me
I'LL STOP BY TOMORROW AFTER SCHOOL.
IF I DON'T RUN INTO MASAO, IT WILL BE OKAY.
CLACK
IT WILL BE ALRIGHT, SINCE IT'S BEEN MORE THAN A WEEK...
Awe
DAMN IT!
SOBS
SOBS
SOBS
Awe


I DON'T THINK THERE'S ANYONE IN THE HOUSE.
OH, REALLY?
SILENCE
?
huh?
DING DONG
I GUESS YOU DON'T KNOW ABOUT IT...
I'M SORRY TO TROUBLE YOU,,
BUT WOULD YOU PLEASE GIVE THIS TO THE LADY?
THEN... THIS...
THE LADY PASSED AWAY LAST NIGHT.

THIS CAN'T BE TRUE.
I BELIEVE- HER FAMILY IS STILL AT THE HOS- PITAL.
YES?
I HAD HEARD THAT SHE WAS IN POOR HEALTH,
AND WOULDN'T LIVE LONG.
I UNDER- STAND WHY MASAO WAS ANGRY THAT TIME....
BUT, HOW CAN THIS BE HAPPENING?

SOBS
HAS SOMETHING HAPPENED?
NO, NOTHING HAPPENED.
ITSUMI.
nic nic
She's been like this since this morning
?
TOTTERS
YOU SHOULD GO TO THE LADIES' ROOM
YES, I'LL DO THAT.
TOTTERS
I'M SUCH AN IDIOT!
SOB SOB
SHARING A BIT OF YOUR HAPPINESS WILL NOT KILL YOU!

KYAA!
STEP
WHAT ARE YOU TOTTERING FOR, YOU IDIOT?!
GRABS
I'M SORRY! I, I ---
STARTLED
MASAO?

SHUU!
WHAT ABOUT THE HOSPITAL?
WHY ARE YOU HERE?
We attend the same school?
SOME TROUBLE-
HUH?
©
I'LL BE RIGHT THERE.
AH!
Sorry for the interruption.
ARE NOT
WHAT'S WITH YOU? RUNNING OUT OF CLASS ALL OF A SUDDEN!
THE TEACHER IS REALLY MAD.
WAIT TILL AFTER CLASSES. I'LL TELL YOU EVERYTHING THEN.
STUDENT ID CARD
3rd Grade, 7th Class
Takato Shou
H S 4-
SHUU?
eh?
RUSTLE
RUSTLE
MASAO?

STUDENT ID CARD
3rd Grade 2nd Class
Takato Shuu
H 84
WHAT IN THE WORLD IS GOING ON?!
TAKATO SHUU?
THEN, I'LL SEE YOU LATER.
YES.
A RENTAL FAMILY?
I ACCEPTED THE ROLE OF 'MASAO' AND ACTED ACCORDINGLY.
THAT'S WHY IT WASN'T MY FAMILY.
ALTHOUGH THE OTHER 3 PEOPLE WERE HER REAL FAMILY.

SHE HAD AN INCURABLE HEART CONDITION.
WHY WOULD YOU DO SUCH A THING?
WHEN HER SON DIED IN A CAR ACCIDENT, HER CONDITION WORSENED.
SHE COULDN'T ACCEPT REALITY AND HER MENTAL STATE BECAME ABNORMAL.
THE FAMILY DECIDED TO CREATE 'MASAO.'
I ACT IN THE THEATER.
I WAS PERFECT FOR THE ROLE BECAUSE OF THE SIMILARITY IN OUR APPEARANCE.
SINCE MASAO USED TO LIVE IN THE DORMS, I JUST HAD TO GO ON THE WEEKENDS.

THAT FAMILY WASN'T REAL.
SO?
I SEE...
THEN I'M LEAVING.
DO YOU UNDERSTAND NOW?
NODS
IF THE MOTHER HAS PASSED AWAY, WHY IS 'MASAO' STILL HERE?
JUST BECAUSE A PLAY IS OVER, DOES THAT MEAN EVERYTHING IS OVER?

SHE'S NOT MY MOTHER.
SLAP
I HOPE YOU DIE!
TAP TAP TAP
RIGHT IN THE FACE!
NATSUME ITSUMI....
SHE'S JUST LIKE HER MOTHER WHEN SHE'S ANGRY.
UGH.
IT HURTS D----
SLAM!

I'M ANGRY
I FEEL SORRY FOR THE LADY.
HUCK
I'M ANGRY
UGH...

HICK
MUR
MUR
MUR
MUR
MUR
MUR
MUR

MUR
MUR
MUR
MUR
MUR
MUR
WHO IS THAT BOY?
I DON'T KNOW.
SOB
THUCK
HE DOESN'T WIPE AWAY HIS FLOWING TEARS.
SOB.

THAT PERSON IS THE REAL 'MASAO.'
THANK YOU.
MY WIFE WAS VERY HAPPY, ALL THANKS TO YOU.
VRCOM
NODS

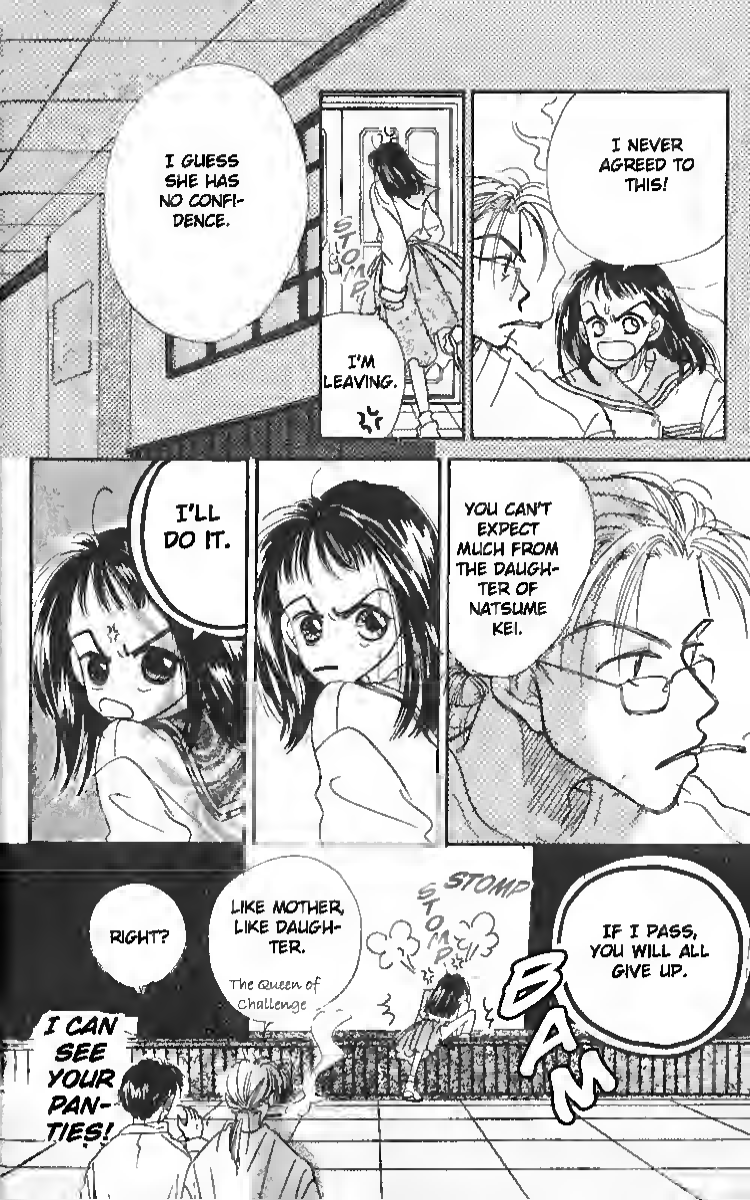
I DIDN'T COME HERE JUST BECAUSE YOU TOLD ME TO.
I KNOW. YOU AREN'T THE OBEDIENT TYPE ANYWAY.
HMMPH
I'M SURPRISED, BECAUSE I WAS ALWAYS AGAINST ACTING.
I GUESS THERE'S A WAY TO MAKE PEOPLE HAPPY THROUGH ACTING.
BECAUSE OF YOUR MOM?

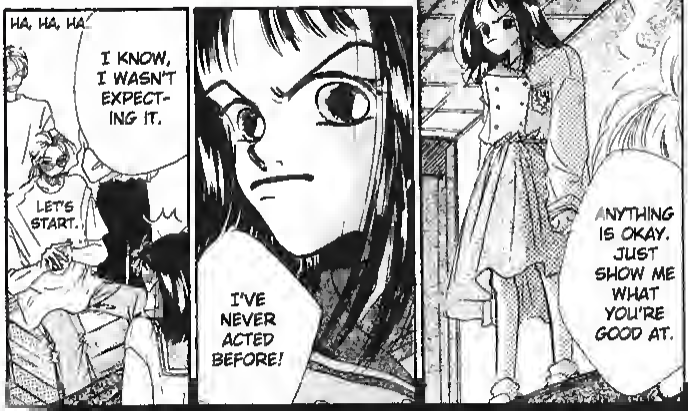
WHEN I FIRST MET YOU AT THE HOUSE, I WAS SHOCKED.
EVERYONE IN SCHOOL KNOWS ABOUT IT.
She's famous
SO, YOU KNEW?
ANNOYED
WHAT?
NO WAY!
I WAS WONDERING ABOUT HOW I SHOULD APPROACH YOU.
YOU,
WOULD YOU LIKE TO JOIN OUR THEATER?

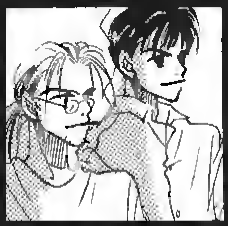
IS IT BECAUSE I'M THE DAUGHTER OF NATSUME KEI?
.....
THERE'S THAT TOO.
WHAT ?!
YOU MISUNDERSTOOD, RIGHT?
YOU THOUGHT I HAD A CRUSH ON YOU.
THERE SHOULDN'T BE ANY LACK OF INTEREST.
YOU'LL BECOME A GREAT ACTRESS!
YOUR VOICE, FACE, AND EVEN THE GUTS TO BEAT UP A GUY.
IT'S INCOMPARABLE. YOU ARE PERFECT.
BUT I REALLY DON'T FEEL LIKE DOING IT.
THIS WOMAN!

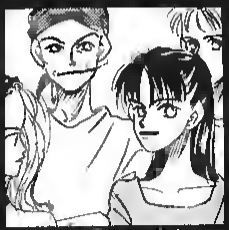
CHAOS
STOP NAGGING AND JUST FOLLOW ME!.
WAIT!
I THOUGHT HE WAS KIND.
BUT HE'S HELLA ANNOY-ING.
IT TURNS OUT HE'S VERY STUBBORN.
THINKING HE WAS A NICE PERSON.

BAM
I DON'T UNDERSTAND HIM AT ALL!
SEIJI, I'VE BROUGHT A NEW MEMBER.
WOO KII!
You're here
YOU'RE LATE, SHUU!
WAIT!
POINT-ING
GOOD. WE ARE GOING TO TEST YOU, SO STAND OVER THERE.
HMM ---
WHAT'S UP WITH THIS UNCLE?
AARGH
STARE
HE'S OUR MASCOT
EEK! IT'S YOU AGAIN?
REALLY?
HM.
MUNCH
YES, REALLY.

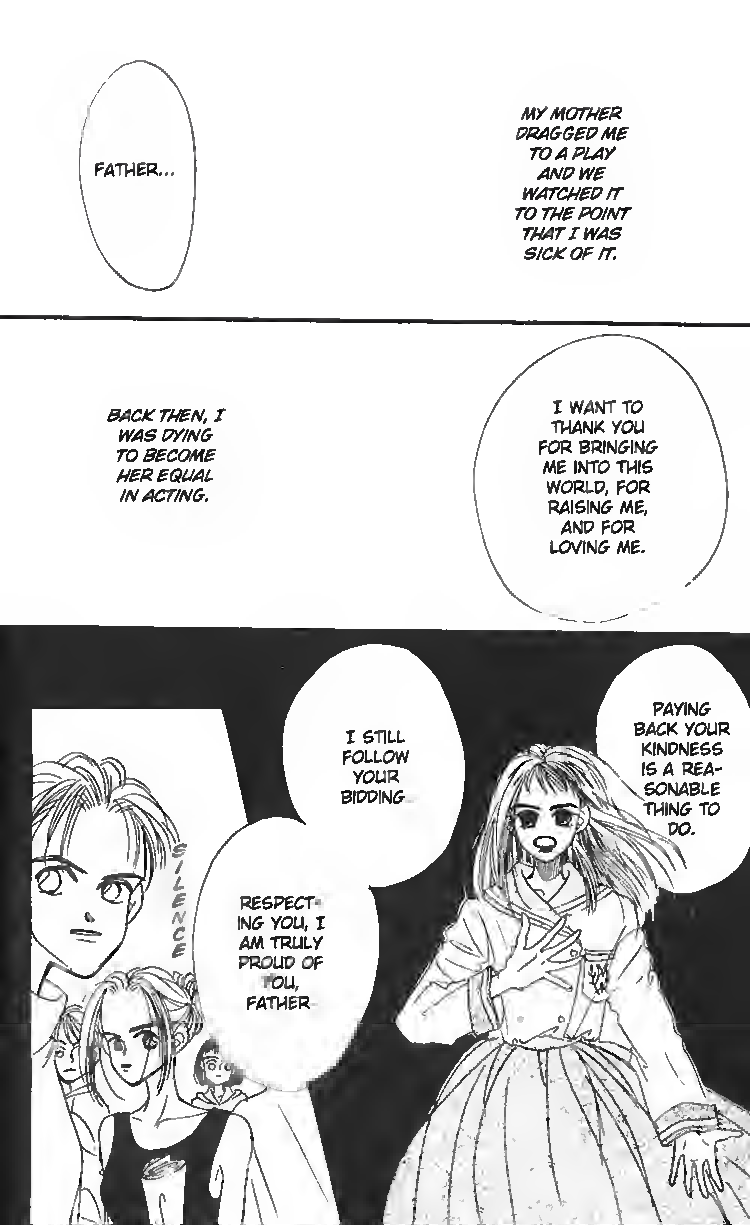

I GUESS SHE HAS NO CONFI-DENCE.
STOMP
I'M LEAVING.
I NEVER AGREED TO THIS!
I'LL DO IT.
YOU CAN'T EXPECT MUCH FROM THE DAUGH-TER OF NATSUME KEI.
RIGHT?
LIKE MOTHER, LIKE DAUGH-TER.
The Queen of Challenge
STOMP
STOMP
IF I PASS, YOU WILL ALL GIVE UP.
BAM
I CAN SEE YOUR PAN-TIES!



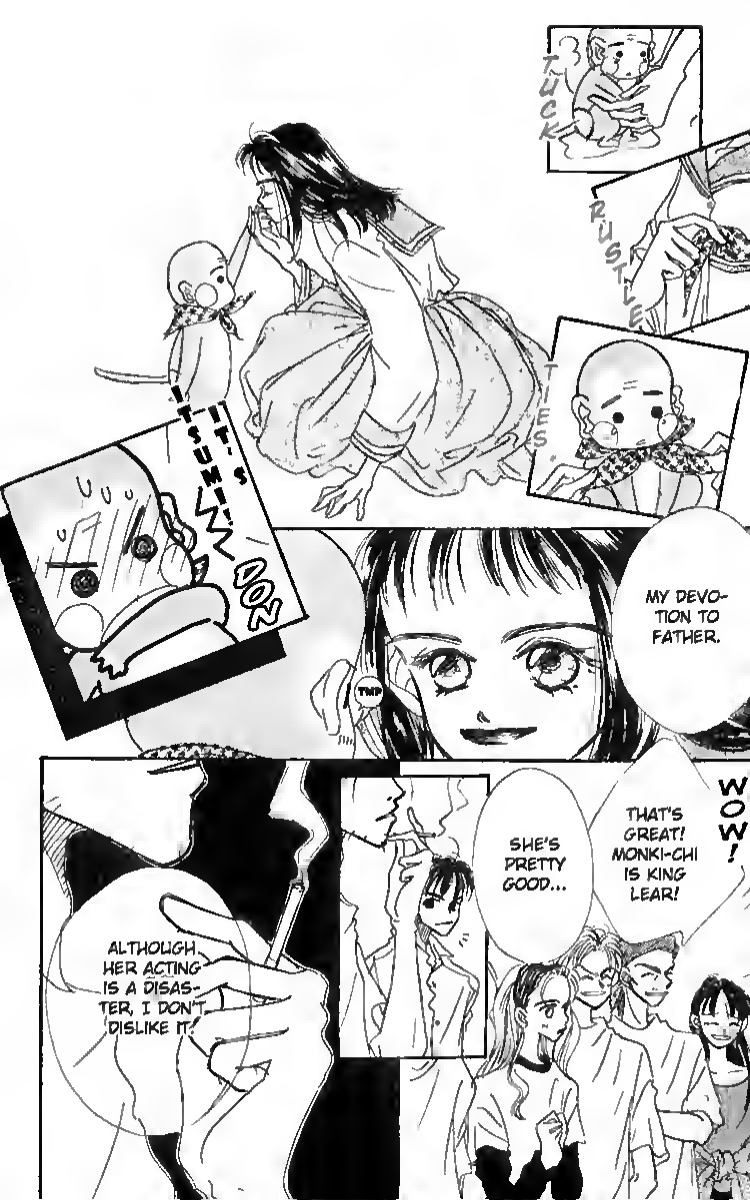


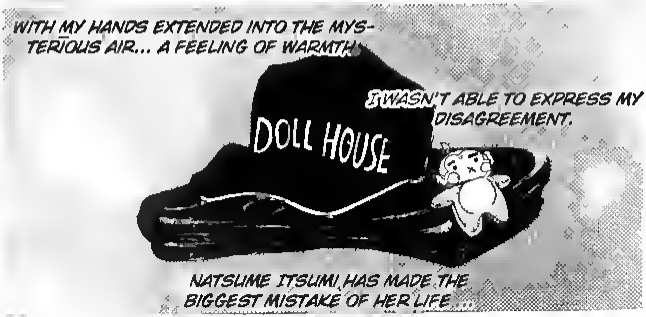


A LONG TIME AGO...


FATHER...
MY MOTHER DRAGGED ME TO A PLAY AND WE WATCHED IT TO THE POINT THAT I WAS SICK OF IT.
BACK THEN, I WAS DYING TO BECOME HER EQUAL IN ACTING.
I WANT TO THANK YOU FOR BRINGING ME INTO THIS WORLD, FOR RAISING ME, AND FOR LOVING ME.
SILENCE
RESPECTING YOU, I AM TRULY PROUD OF YOU, FATHER
I STILL FOLLOW YOUR BIDDING
PAYING BACK YOUR KINDNESS IS A REASONABLE THING TO DO.

SHE KNOWS EXACTLY WHAT SHE'S DOING.
IT'S LIKE KING LEAR.
AN UNEXPECTED SETTING.
NOW WHAT WILL YOU DO?
GRAB
WOO KIM!
monki
this stuffs
TOSS
UWAAA!---
WHAT THE?--


TUCK
RUSTLE
TIES.
IT'S TSUMIKI-KUN
MY DEVOTION TO FATHER.
TWIP
WOW!
THAT'S GREAT! MONKI-CHI IS KING LEAR!
SHE'S PRETTY GOOD...
ALTHOUGH HER ACTING IS A DISASTER, I DON'T DISLIKE IT.


WITH MY HANDS EXTENDED INTO THE MYSTERIOUS AIR... A FEELING OF WARMTH.
I WASN'T ABLE TO EXPRESS MY DISAGREEMENT.
DOLL HOUSE
NATSUME ITSUMI HAS MADE THE BIGGEST MISTAKE OF HER LIFE...

End Ch1, part A

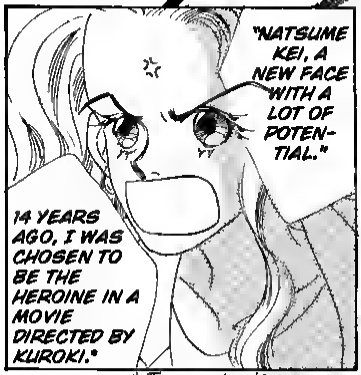
DOLL HOUSE
YOU CAN'T BE SLACKING OFF...
30 SETS OF DIAPHRAGM EXERCISES, AND NEXT WILL BE VOCALIZATION.
WHAT ARE YOU TWO DOING?!
AND WHEN YOU'RE DONE...
AH, SEIJI. THESE ARE REALLY GOOD. ITSUMI MADE THEM.
would you like one?
WOMEN THESE
AH! MONKICHI! OUR CAKE!
SHOCKED
UNFORGIVEABLE!
NO!
ALL MEMBERS WILL DO 50 SETS OF DIAPHRAGM EXERCISES. PERIOD.
EHHH!
DEVIL!
GASP!
MUNCH
I ADMIRE YOUR GUTS.
SINCE WHEN HAS THIS BEEN A SOCIAL EVENT FOR THE LADIES?
IT'S BEEN ONE MONTH SINCE I JOINED THE THEATER GROUP "DOLL HOUSE".
WAH!
CATCH HIM!

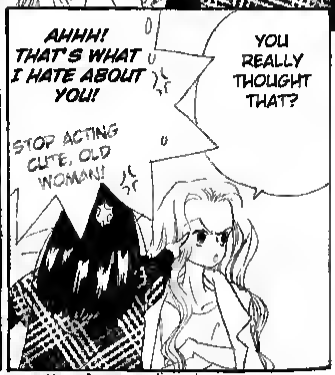
HEY! HEY!
I'VE BEEN GETTING ALONG GREAT WITH THE OTHER CAST MEMBERS.
BUMP
KI!
WHERE IS SEIJI?
BUT THEN SUCH AN UNEX-PECTED EVENT.
...MOM?!
CHATTER CHATTER
RE AL LY ?!
NATSUME KEI?!
OH. YOU'RE HERE.
NOW ALL THE MEMBERS HAVE COME.

BUT THE THEATER IS IN A PINCH.
GASP!
ALSO, THE QUALITY OF THE ACTORS SEEMS TO BE GOING DOWNHILL.
WE'VE BEEN HAVING SMALLER AUDIENCES.
SO...
DO---OM.
Now that you mention it
UP TO NOW, THIS WAS SUPPOSED TO BE A SECRET...
WHAT IN THE WORLD IS MY MOM DOING HERE?
NO...
DID YOU KNOW ABOUT THIS SHUU?
CHATTER
NATSUME ITSUMI!
ACTRESS NATSUME KEI.
WE WERE CLASSMATES IN HIGH SCHOOL.
I TOLD HER ABOUT OUR CURRENT SITUATION, AND SHE DECIDED TO GIVE US A HAND.
IN THIS UPCOMING PERFORMANCE, YOU'LL PLAY THE HEROINE.
WHAT?
TWITCH

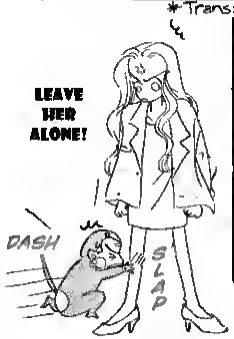
NATSUME KEI AND HER DAUGHTER, TOGETHER ON STAGE FOR THE FIRST TIME...
THAT WILL CATCH THE PUBLIC'S EYE.
CLENCH
WHAT'S THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN?
THAT'S NONSENSE!
WAS THAT YOUR PLAN FROM THE BEGINNING?
YOU COULD SAY THAT.
I'M NOT GOING TO DO THIS!
I'M NOT GOING TO ACT WITH THIS WOMAN!
EVEN IF I DIE!
THIS IS AN ORDER.
THEN I WILL QUIT THIS THEATER GROUP!
OPEN

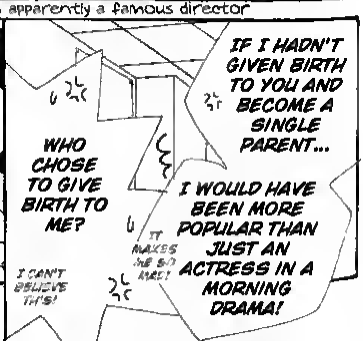
YES!
ACTING THAT WAY.
BLAMING OTHERS FOR YOUR OWN FAULTS?
OOH... A mother-daughter fight!
FUME--
AND IT'S YOUR FAULT!
LET'S DO OUR BEST.
shake hands
IT'S SETTLED
I AM GOING TO DO THIS. AND YOU? WILL YOU RUN AWAY?
TOMORROW, WE WILL OFFICIALLY START OUR REHEARSALS.
UGH!
SLAP





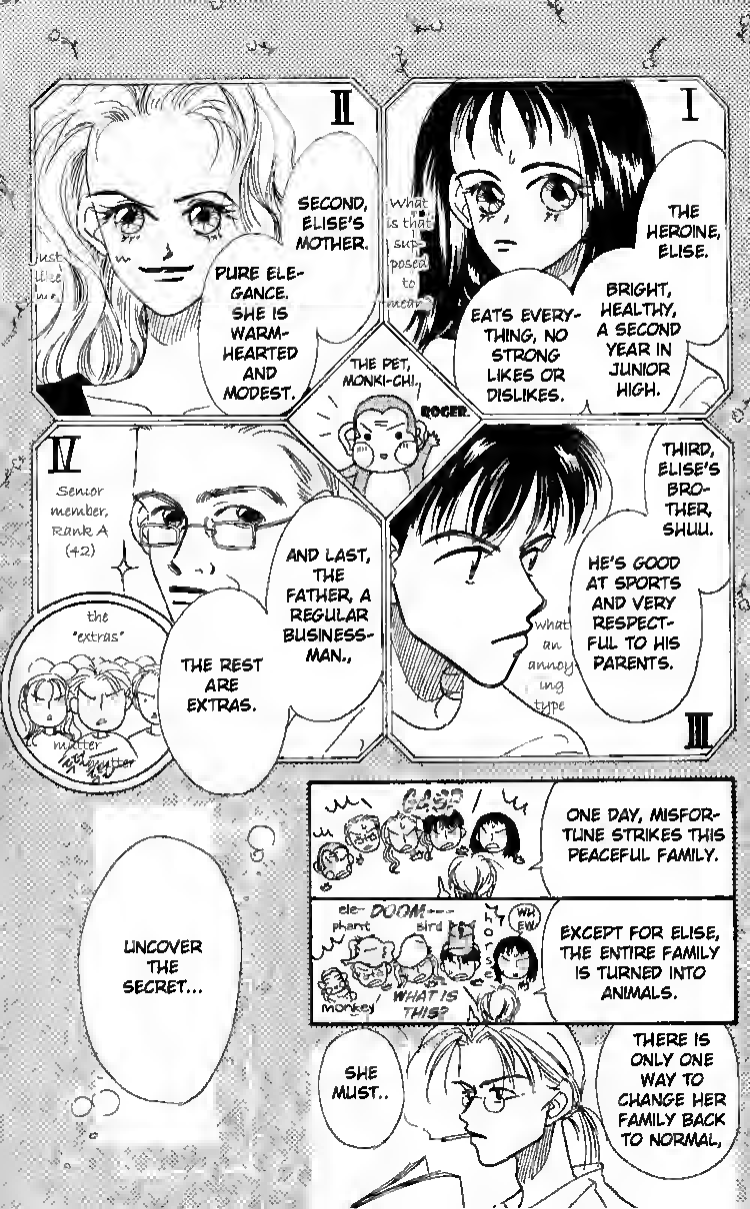
*Transnote: Kuroki is apparently a famous director




WHO CHOSE TO GIVE BIRTH TO ME?
I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS!
IT MAKES ME SO ANGRY
IF I HADN'T GIVEN BIRTH TO YOU AND BECOME A SINGLE PARENT...
I WOULD HAVE BEEN MORE POPULAR THAN JUST AN ACTRESS IN A MORNING DRAMA!

SHRIEK!
SHRIEK!
STOP IT YOU TIYO!
WOO-KII!
WAH!
KYAA!
DROP
CRASH
DOLL HOUSE
FLOP
HNG
HEY SISTER, WHY DON'T YOU SIT DOWN?
MONKI-CHI!
AUK
DISAP-PEAR.
THAT GIRL IS ONLY GOOD AT SAYING THINGS THAT ANNOY ME.
can't help it
it hurts
THE TWO OF YOU ARE THE SAME.
DON'T WASTE MY EFFORT.
WHY ARE YOU DIGGING YOUR OWN GRAVE?

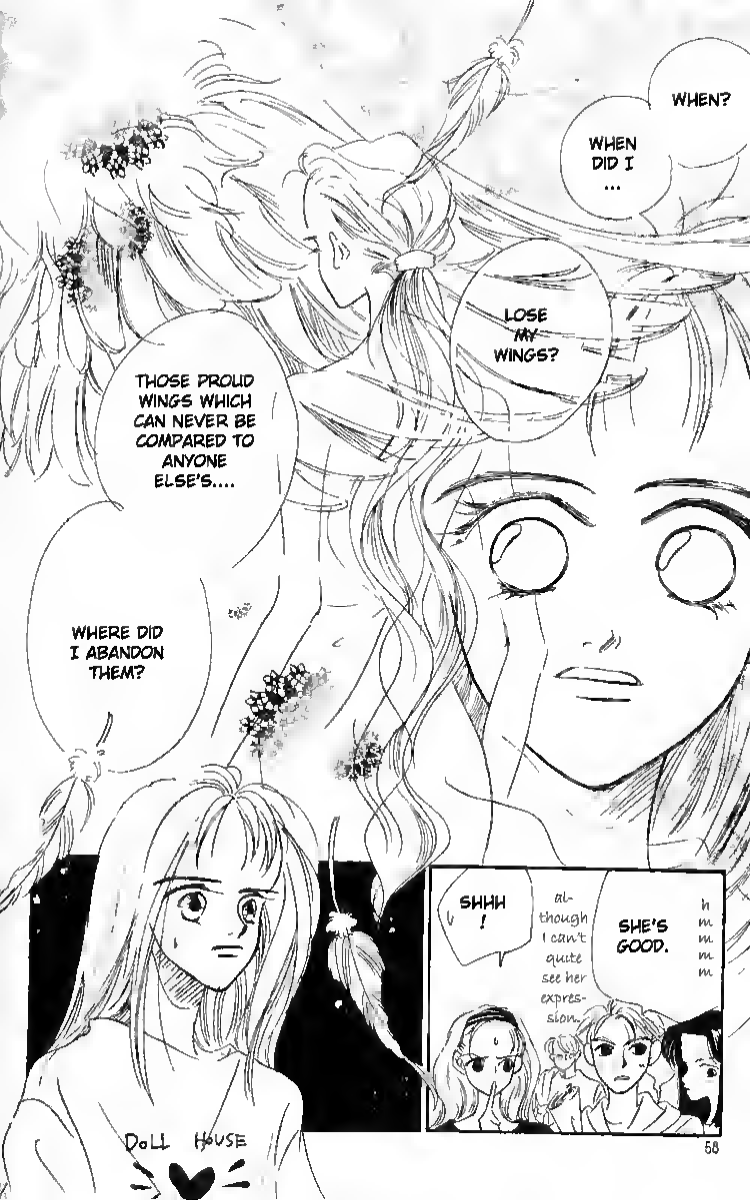
How can an actress injure her face?
.....
THAT GIRL...
TRULY HATES ME.
TO SEE THIS KIND OF RELATION-SHIP BETWEN MOTHER AND DAUGHTER... I BET YOICHI WOULD CRY.
Homemade Home
THUD
LET ME EXPLAIN TO YOU THE BASIC STORY FOR THE PLAY.
FIRST...


I
THE HEROINE, ELISE.
BRIGHT, HEALTHY, A SECOND YEAR IN JUNIOR HIGH.
EATS EVERYTHING, NO STRONG LIKES OR DISLIKES.
What is that supposed to mean?
II
SECOND, ELISE'S MOTHER.
PURE ELEGANCE. SHE IS WARM-HEARTED AND MODEST.
Just like ours.
THE PET, MONKI-CHI.
ROGER.
III
THIRD, ELISE'S BROTHER, SHUU.
HE'S GOOD AT SPORTS AND VERY RESPECTFUL TO HIS PARENTS.
What an annoying type
IV
Senior member, Rank A (42)
AND LAST, THE FATHER, A REGULAR BUSINESSMAN.,
THE REST ARE EXTRAS.
the "extras"
matter
don't matter
ONE DAY, MISFORTUNE STRIKES THIS PEACEFUL FAMILY.
BASH
ele-phant
DOOM----
bird
monkey
WHAT IS THIS?
WH EW
EXCEPT FOR ELISE, THE ENTIRE FAMILY IS TURNED INTO ANIMALS.
UNCOVER THE SECRET...
SHE MUST..
THERE IS ONLY ONE WAY TO CHANGE HER FAMILY BACK TO NORMAL.

A SECRET THAT MUST NEVER BE REVEALED.
INSIDE THIS CALM FAMILY, WITH THEIR UNRUFFLED LIFE,
EVERYONE HAS BEEN HIDING A PERFECT SECRET.
FOR THE SAKE OF HER FAMILY, A LONG JOURNEY HAS BEGUN.
DEFI-NITELY A WEIRD STORY.

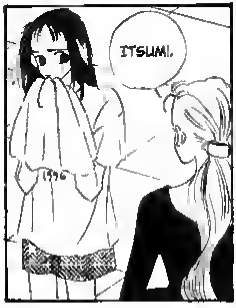
?
YIKES!!
ONCE HIS REHEARSALS BEGIN, YOU WILL DEFINITELY LEVEL UP.
no, he's like that all the time
this person...
THIS IS SOMETHING ONLY A MIDDLE-AGED MAN WOULD REAM UP.
MAKE SURE YOU ARE PREPARED TO DO IT PROPERLY.
HOLD ON A SECOND, I THINK YOU'RE OVER-REACTING...
GASP
DON'T RUN!
DON'T TRIP!
DOLL HOUSE
HOW MANY TIMES DO I HAVE TO TELL YOU, YOU BLOCK-HEAD!
YOUR VOICE IS TOO LOW!
YOU ARE NOISY!

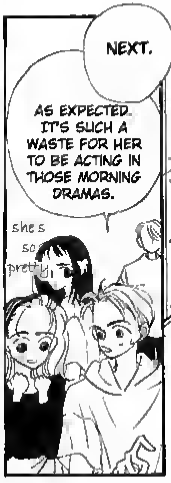
GOOD. NEXT.
THIS IS MORE THAN I EXPEC TED.
DAZT
DAZT
HANG IN THERE.
WOW! SEIJI'S POWER IS UNBELIEVABLE!
how unfortu- nate
SHR IEK!
STEP
I...

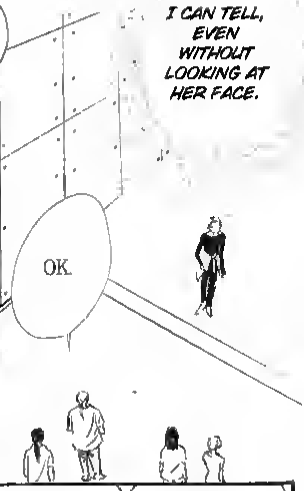

WHEN?
WHEN DID I ...
LOSE MY WINGS?
THOSE PROUD WINGS WHICH CAN NEVER BE COMPARED TO ANYONE ELSE'S....
WHERE DID I ABANDON THEM?
SHHH !
although I can't quite see her expression.
SHE'S GOOD.
hmmmmm
DoLL HOUSE

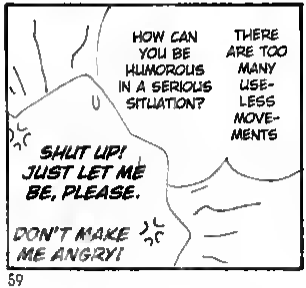
TRACES OF TEARS
SORROW
SADNESS

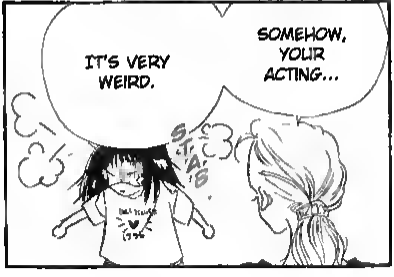
SOSH


ITSUMI.


NEXT.
AS EXPECTED. IT'S SUCH A WASTE FOR HER TO BE ACTING IN THOSE MORNING DRAMAS.
she's so pretty!


I CAN TELL, EVEN WITHOUT LOOKING AT HER FACE.
OK


HOW CAN YOU BE HUMOROUS IN A SERIOUS SITUATION?
THERE ARE TOO MANY USE-LESS MOVE-MENTS
SHUT UP! JUST LET ME BE, PLEASE.
DON'T MAKE ME ANGRY!


IT'S VERY WEIRD.
SOMEHOW, YOUR ACTING...
S.T.A.G.E

GRAB
KYAA
IT HURTS!
TIE UP YOUR HAIR.
It will help you concentrate.
I'm going to go bald.
AND...
RE-TYING.
YESTER-DAY, I OVERRE-ACTED.
MOM...?

CAN WE TALK?
Bye
Good work.
DO YOU WANT TO BE TORMENTED AGAIN?
SHAKE
SHAKE
NO, IT'S OKAY NOW.
2ID
WOULD YOU LIKE TO HAVE SOME TEA?
HAS MOTHER EVER BEEN ON STAGE BEFORE?
ORIGINALLY, KEI WAS IN THE THEATER.
THEN...
Tea
Coffee

YOU KNEW MY FATHER?
WE ALL WENT TO THE SAME HIGH SCHOOL.
AFTER YOICHI'S DEATH, SHE QUIT THE STAGE.
!
I only know he died in an accident.
MOM NEVER SAID ANY-THING...
She got mad if I asked.
MY FATHER...
CLENCH
KEI,
YOICHI,
AND I.
IT MUST HAVE BEEN HARD.
BECAUSE REMEM-BERING YOICHI WAS TOO PAINFUL TO BEAR.
SHE HAD TO QUIT THE THEATER SHE LOVED THE MOST,
YOU DIDN'T KNOW?
THE THREE OF US CREATED THIS THEATER.

EVEN SO, UP TO NOW SHE RAISED YOU ALL ALONE.
WOMEN ARE HARD TO UNDER-STAND.
THAT PERSON, SEIJI...
SPEAKS OF THE MOTHER I DON'T KNOW AS...
A VERY AFFEC-TIONATE PERSON.
THEN... WHY?
WHY IS SHE TRYING TO GET BACK ON THE STAGE?
CAN'T YOU TELL?

HER ULTIMATE GOAL IS TO BUILD A BETTER RELATIONSHIP...
BETWEEN THE TWO OF YOU.
I DON'T UNDERSTAND.
BECAUSE...
I HAVEN'T HEARD ANYTHING FROM HER YET.
THEN, I'LL SEE YOU TOMORROW.
Don't be late
YES.
Good evening

THE THREE OF US CREATED THIS THEATER.
TAP
KEI,
YOICHI,
AND I.
THE ONLY WAY TO BRING THE FAMILY BACK TO NORMAL, IS TO UNCOVER THE SECRET.
I MIGHT BE ABLE TO DISCOVER IT.
SECRET.
DOLL HOUSE

PROPS AND STORES
ANY-THING IS GOOD, ANY-THING...
EVEN A SMALL HINT...
ANYTHING THAT WILL HELP ME DISCOVER MOTHER'S SECRET.
AHI
1996.7.6 by Seiji, Kei, and Yoichi.
WHIRR WHIRR
CLICK

DOLL
DO LIK
IS SOMEONE STILL HERE?
THUD
There's actually someone who practices as much as I do?
HUH?

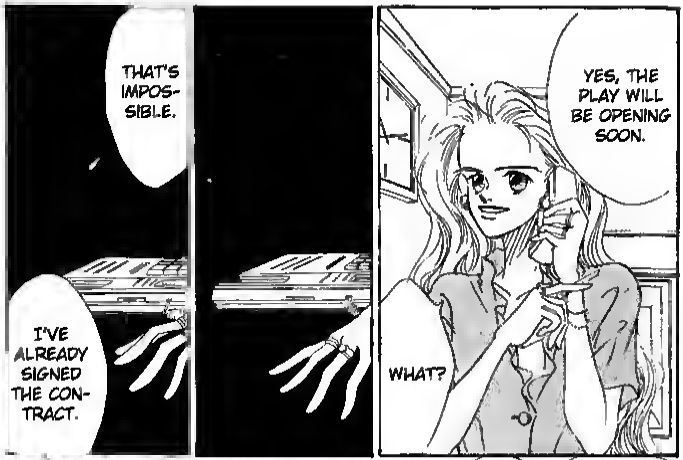
Oh, my Stop that Seiji
ha ha ha
Let's hear from the happily engaged couple
Do you prefer a boy or a girl?
I like both.
And the name?
It doesn't matter that the orders have changed!
How shameful, getting merried in the blink of an eye
If it is a girl...
THUD
If it's a girl, Ling Ling
"Itsumi," as in "lovely"
It will be...
"Itsumi"

I just love this child very much.
SOMETHING LOVELY...
WITH A SOUND OF DELICACY.
WHY...?

WHY DOES MY HEART ACHE SO MUCH?
THERE ARE NO PARENTS WHO WOULD HATE THEIR CHILD.
IN THE END, I COULDN'T DISCOVER MY MOTHER'S SECRET.
ALL THE SMALL HINTS I HAD COLLECTED SUDDENLY VANISHED.
PLUS...
MY HEART SEEMS TO BE MORE AT EASE.
ZZZZZ
CHIRP
CHIRP
CHIRP
CHIRP
SPLASH
ACK!
KYAA!

WOULD YOU MIND EXPLAIN -ING THIS?
whisper whisper
AH...
ACK! IT'S MORNING!
ANYWAY... kids these days
fu fu
PLEASE DON'T MISUNDERSTAND
ALTHOUGH SHE ACTS LIKE THAT, SHE WAS VERY WORRIED
MOM.
YES, I MIGHT UNDERSTAND NOW.
SORRY FOR MAKING YOU WORRY.
ALSO, I WANT TO THANK YOU.
FOR THE THINGS YOU'VE DONE FOR ME
TAP TAP TAP
PERHAPS...

Home made Home
Home made Home
DOLLHOUSE
IT'S NOT TOO LATE...
WE CAN STILL MAKE IT.
WE MIGHT BE ABLE TO START OVER AGAIN...
WITH NO MISTAKES.
RRRR
RRRRR
YES? MANAGER?
I'M SORRY, BUT CAN YOU CALL ME BACK LATER? I'M KIND OF BUSY RIGHT NOW.
YES, HELLO?
YES, YES, YES!
hang on a minute please
RRRR


THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE.
I'VE ALREADY SIGNED THE CONTRACT.
YES, THE PLAY WILL BE OPENING SOON.
WHAT?

WHAT?!

A MOVIE DIRECTED BY KUROKI?

WE CAN START OVER AGAIN WITH NO MISTAKES.

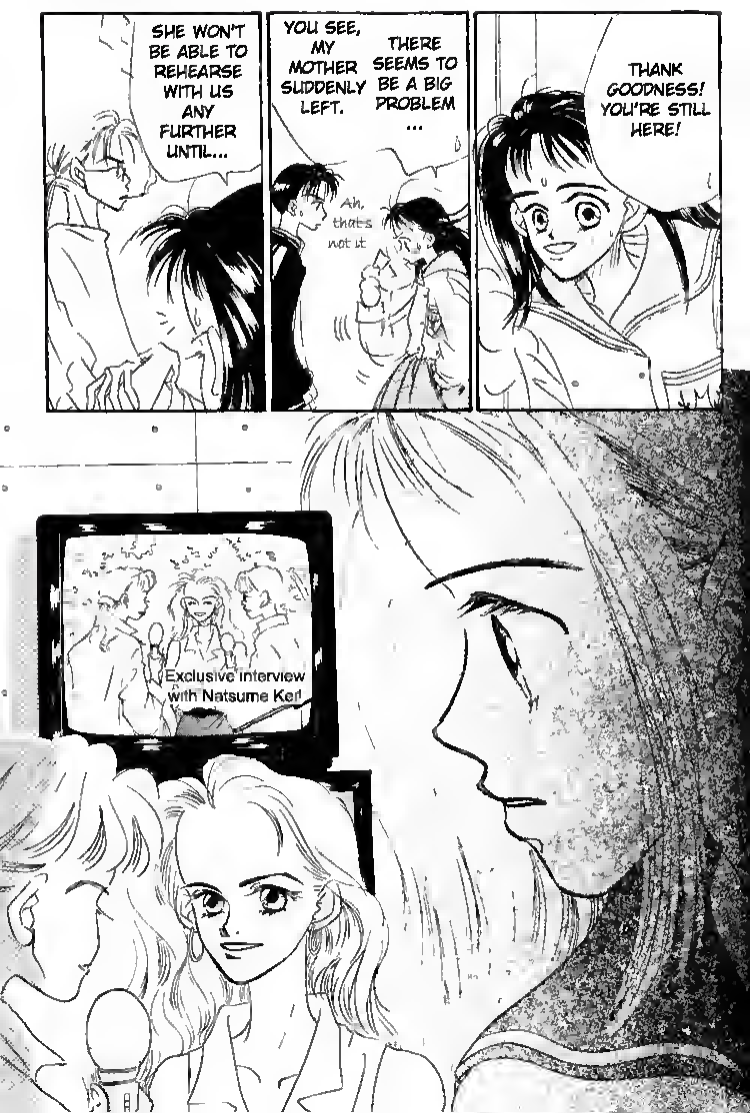
II

DURING THE SERIAL PUBLICATION, THE MOST POPULAR CHARACTER WAS MONKI-CHI. BEFORE I STARTED THIS SERIES, THE CHIEF EDITOR HAD CALLED ME AND ASKED ME, "SHOULD WE DEBUT AN ANIMAL IN THIS STORY?
WHEN I HEARD THAT, I THOUGHT OF A MONKEY RIGHT AWAY...

SINCE I'VE NEVER HAD A MONKEY AS A PET, IT WAS HARD FOR ME TO PICTURE HOW A MONKEY ACTS.
THAT'S WHY I'VE ONLY DRAWN MONKI-CHI EATING A BANANA ALL THE TIME. I APOLOGIZE FOR MAKING IT SO BORING.

CURRENTLY, I'M RENTING A STUDIO AWAY FROM HOME TO DO MY WORK. MAYBE BECAUSE THERE ARE LOTS OF APARTMENTS, I DON'T HEAR THE SLIGHTEST SOUND OF PETS. ALTHOUGH I MISS HOME, I'M DOING MY BEST TO DO MY WORK. I'M HOPING TO BE LUCKY ENOUGH TO SEE A STRAY CAT PASS BY ANYTIME SOON.

Due to sudden business, I won't be home for a while.
Kei.
AH...
DOLL HOUSE
SEIJI!
ANYONE HERE?!
TAP
TAP
TAP


SHE WON'T BE ABLE TO REHEARSE WITH US ANY FURTHER UNTIL...
YOU SEE, MY MOTHER SUDDENLY LEFT.
THERE SEEMS TO BE A BIG PROBLEM ...
Ah, that's not it
THANK GOODNESS! YOU'RE STILL HERE!
Exclusive interview with Natsume Ken

NATSUME KEI WILL BE A CAST MEMEBER IN THE UPCOMING MOVIE DIRECTED BY KUROKI...
I'll probably be back in half a year.
I'm so jealous!
In order to receive some special training,
I'll be leaving for Paris in a week with the rest of the cast.
I heard that you also acted in one of Kuroki's movies a long time ago.
Yes.

I'm absolutely delighted that my dream has coma true.
It was my dream to be able to act in one of his movies again.
Homemade Home
OPENING NIGHT IN 10 DAYS
MOTHER?!

= THEATER DOLL HOUSE =
Homemade Home
TAP
ge in Casting:
= THEATER DOLL HOUSE =
Homemade Home
CAST
Natsume Itsumi
Natsumi Kei
Takato Shuu
PLAYING ONE OF THE LEADS AND LEAVING RIGHT BEFORE THE PERFORMANCE...
THIS WILL REALLY DAMAGE OUR REPUTATION. AFTER ALL, WE WERE RELYING ON KEI.
we shouldn't overlook this
OK. I'M ALSO DONE WITH EVERYTHING.
SHUU, I'M DONE OVER HERE.
DOLL

LL HOUSE
I'M GOING TO BUY SOME CIGARETTES.
You should leave first
KEI. IT'S BEEN A WHILE.

"THAT KIND OF WOMAN IS NOT EVEN A MOTHER."
"I FEEL SO RELIEVED THAT SHE QUIT."
PASS
DO YOU KNOW WHAT ITSUMI SAID?
AFTER YOU LEFT, THE THEATER WAS IN TOTAL CHAOS...
WOULD YOU LIKE TO COME IN? IT'S BEEN SO MUCH FUN.
KEI, IS THAT OKAY WITH YOU?
I CAN'T DO THIS!
Homemade Home
YOU WILL LOSE THE ONLY FAMILY YOU HAVE.
IF YOU JUST GO TO FRANCE LIKE THIS,

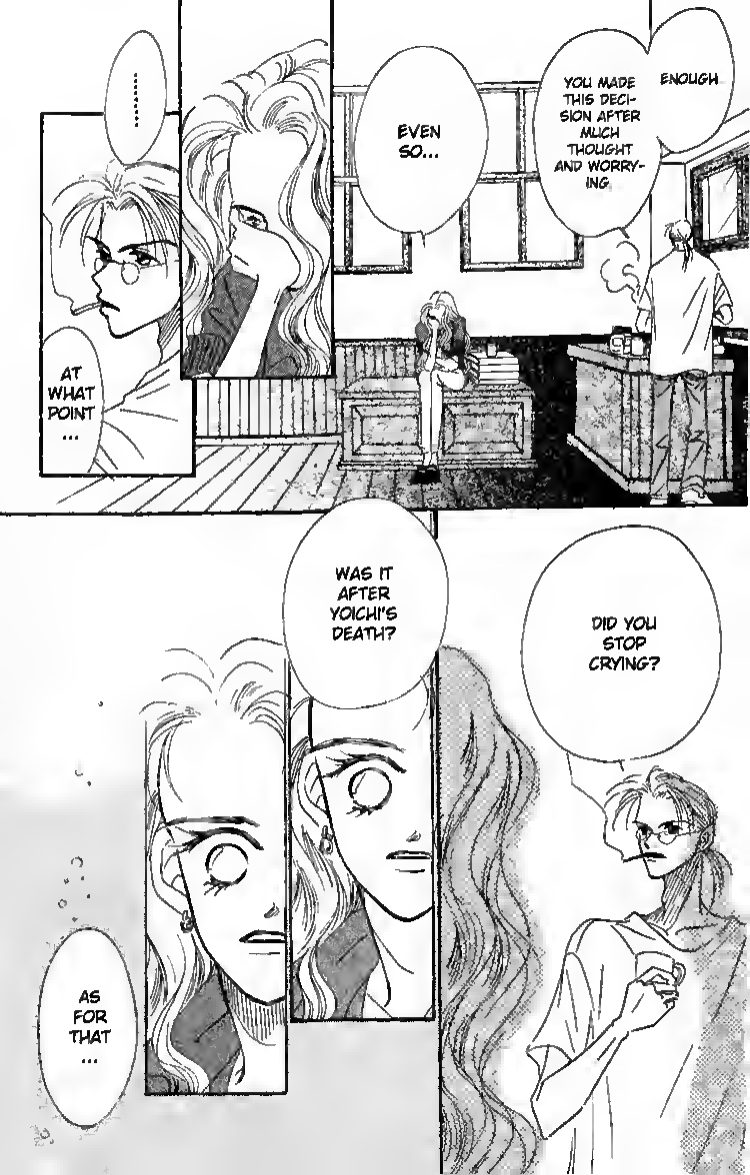
SLAM
SEIJI, IVE FIXED ALL THE POSTERS.
OH, THANK YOU FOR YOUR HARD WORK.
ULULAAANNNGG!
I BEG YOU. PLEASE.
We will help you
I JUST CAN'T COMPARE WITH KEI!
(ULULAAANNNGG!
CREAK
MUNCH MUNCH
Ah, thank God!
YOU CAME BACK!
CLING
KY UU UU
KEI!
THUD
I'M NOT PLANNING ON COMING BACK.

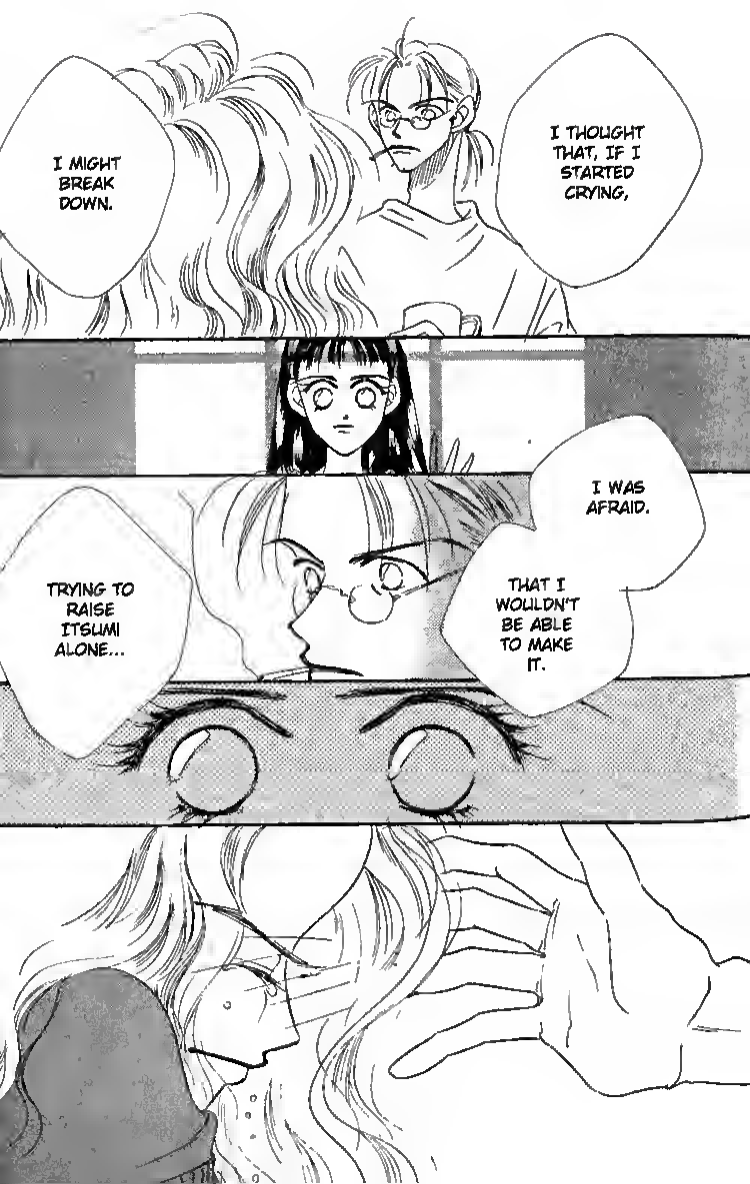
FOR 14 YEARS I HAVE WAITED FOR THIS.
EVEN IF THE WORLD WAS COL-LAPSING.
K.... KEI...
I COULD NEVER IGNORE THIS OPPORTU-NITY.
ITSUMI., CAN I SEE YOU FOR A MOMENT?
HERE.
36, rue de la Fontaine au Roi, 75011 PARIS
36.57.44.97
MY CONTACT INFORMA-TION.
COME VISIT ME AT VACA-TION.
I'LL BE LEAVING JAPAN TOMORROW NIGHT...
RIE

ARE YOU NOT RIGHT IN THE HEAD?
OR ARE YOU JUST STUPID?
DO YOU EXPECT US TO PRAISE YOU FOR YOUR SUCCESS?
IN THIS SITUA-TION, HOW CAN YOU EVEN TRY TO ACT LIKE A MOTHER?
UP TO NOW,
I HAVE NOT ONCE BEEN PROUD OF BEING YOUR DAUGHTER.
LET ME TELL YOU SOME-THING.

TAP TAP
TAP
TAP
KEI THE UNQUENCHABLE CAN ALSO BE KNOCKED DOWN.
YOU HAVE A REAL TALENT FOR HURTING PEOPLE'S FEELINGS.
YOU WERE LISTENING?
YES, I HEARD.
DOLLHOUSE

GET YOUR BAG.
PAT PAT
LET'S GET SOME-THING TO EAT.
I'M SUCH AN IDIOT.
SOME-THING I NEVER SHOULD HAVE SAID.
I'M SORRY. EVEN WITH THE CHANCE YOU HAVE GIVEN ME...
THAT WAS...


.....
AT WHAT POINT ...
EVEN SO...
YOU MADE THIS DECISION AFTER MUCH THOUGHT AND WORRYING.
ENOUGH
AS FOR THAT ...
WAS IT AFTER YOICHI'S DEATH?
DID YOU STOP CRYING?


I MIGHT BREAK DOWN.
I THOUGHT THAT, IF I STARTED CRYING,
TRYING TO RAISE ITSUMI ALONE...
I WAS AFRAID.
THAT I WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO MAKE IT.

IT MUST HAVE BEEN HARD.
SUDDENLY...
THE LOCK WITHIN MY HEART HAS OPENED.
THIS WAS MY MOTHER'S SECRET.
THE SECRET THAT HAS SEPARATED US FOR 14 YEARS...
I BELIEVE, THE ACT OF MY MOTHER, SO FAR,
IS OF A STRONG WOMAN.
MY MOTHER'S BIGGEST SECRET.

IN ORDER TO FACE THE WORLD...
IN ORDER TO ACCEPT REALITY...
THE ACT THAT STARTED AFTER MY FATHER'S DEATH.
Sure
Uncle, can we have some water?
I THINK I CAN UNDERSTAND KEI'S FEELINGS.
THIS IS A BIG CHANCE FOR HER. IF I WAS HER, I WOULD ALSO.
KEI'S LEAVING AT 7 O'CLOCK TONIGHT, RIGHT?
THE RAIN WON'T STOP.
ALL BY HERSELF
YOU'RE RIGHT.
YES, I WOULD TOO.
I...
BU
MD
CRASH

IT'S OKAY, DON'T WORRY.
I'M, I'M SORRY... THE MATERI-ALS...
OOPS ...
ITSUMI! ARE YOU OKAY?
SPILLS
IF YOU DON'T FEEL UP TO IT, THEN JUST GO HOME.
ITSUMI
SHUU!
ITSUMI IS VERY SENSI-TIVE RIGHT NOW!
SEIJI, YOU'VE SAID TOO MUCH!
ITSUMI!
YOU'RE IN THE WAY.
TSK
YOU SHOULD GO TOO.
TAP TAP
DOLL HOUSE

NOW BE A MAN, AND GO PRACTICE YOUR ACTING.
ALL THE BOTHERSOME JOBS ARE GIVEN TO ME.
THAT'S YOUR GOOD POINT.
Huh?
SEIJI, HE IS AS EXPECTED.
He's the genius → director...
prac-tice
Alright then
THUNK
Okay, let's prac-tice

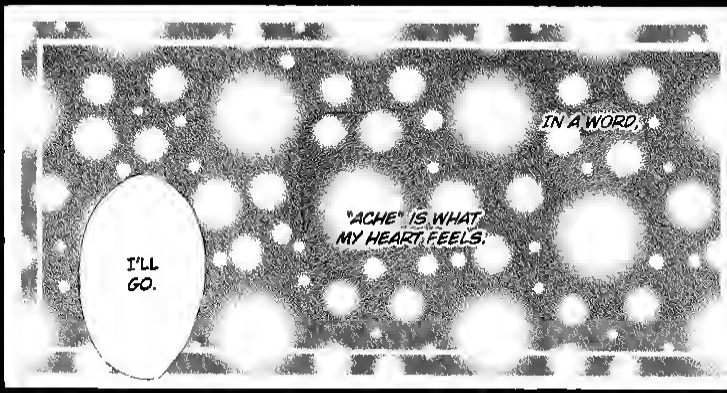
ITSUMI!
LET'S GO.
GRAB
NO!
I DON'T WANT TO SEE HER OFF!
HO...
HOLD ON!
YANK

HUH...?
GOOD KIDS AMUSEMENT PARK
ADULTS $00
GOOD KIDS
RAINY DAYS ARE PERFECT FOR AMUSEMENT PARKS.
!?
It's usually empty then
KYAAH!
I...
I CAN'T FOLLOW YOUR PACE.
W-WAIT A MINUTE, SHUU!
GREAT! LET'S GO TO THE NEXT ONE!
Here
POURS DOWN
It's all wet

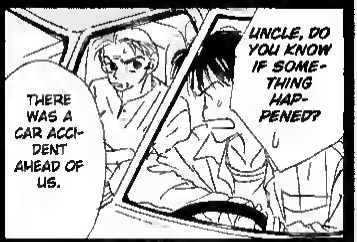
YOUKO
AH.
TICK-TICK
Rest House

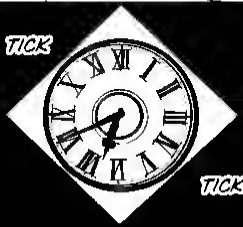
EACH AND EVERY FAMILY HAS ITS OWN SHAPE.
WHENEVER I GO TO OTHER PEOPLES' HOMES,
MY FIRST THOUGHT IS "WHAT A STRANGE FAMILY."
BECAUSE, COMPARED TO MINE, IT'S DIFFERENT.
MY FAMILY IS ANY-THING BUT ORDINARY.
I SEE ...
RATHER THAN WORRYING ABOUT MY FAMILY UNDER-STANDING ME,
I WONDER, IF THEY WEREN'T HERE WITH ME,
WOULDN'T I BE SAD?

IF THEY DISAP-PEARED, IT WOULD BE PAINFUL. AND YOU?
I COULD NEVER SAY "COME BACK SOON" JUST BECAUSE I'M FEELING SAD.
THAT WOULD BE IRRE-SPONSI-BLE.
WHAT ARE YOU PLANNING TO DO?


IN A WORD,
"ACHE" IS WHAT MY HEART FEELS.
I'LL GO.

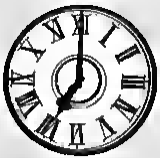
THEATER
Wall House
THEATER'S CAR
DAMN IT!
WHY IS THERE SO MUCH TRAFFIC?
HONK
HONK
HONK


UNCLE, DO YOU KNOW IF SOMETHING HAPPENED?
THERE WAS A CAR ACCIDENT AHEAD OF US.


TICK
TICK

WITHOUT MY MOM, I'LL BE SAD...
VROOM
VROOM
HONK
HONK

I HAVEN'T SAID THE MOST IMPORTANT WORDS TO YOU YET.



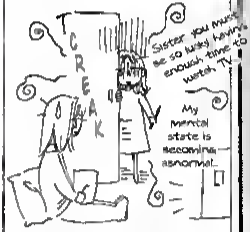
SH-
OOM

TEARS FLOWING
HOW LONG DO YOU PLAN TO CRY?
HEY.
If I had known this was going to happen, I would have dragged her here to start with.
A VERY WARM HAND....
HAS REACHED OUT TO ME.
Just this once!
SOB SOB SOB
I don't normally do this, understand?

A WARM ATMO-SPHERE...
REALLY?
I GUESS YOU WERE JUST ONE STEP TOO SHORT.
THAT'S WHAT MAKES PEOPLE INTO A FAMILY.
BUT, IT'S OKAY.
BECAUSE IT HELPED ME REALIZE SOMETHING IMPOR-TANT.
WHEN THE PLAY IS OVER, I'M GOING TO GO VISIT MOM.

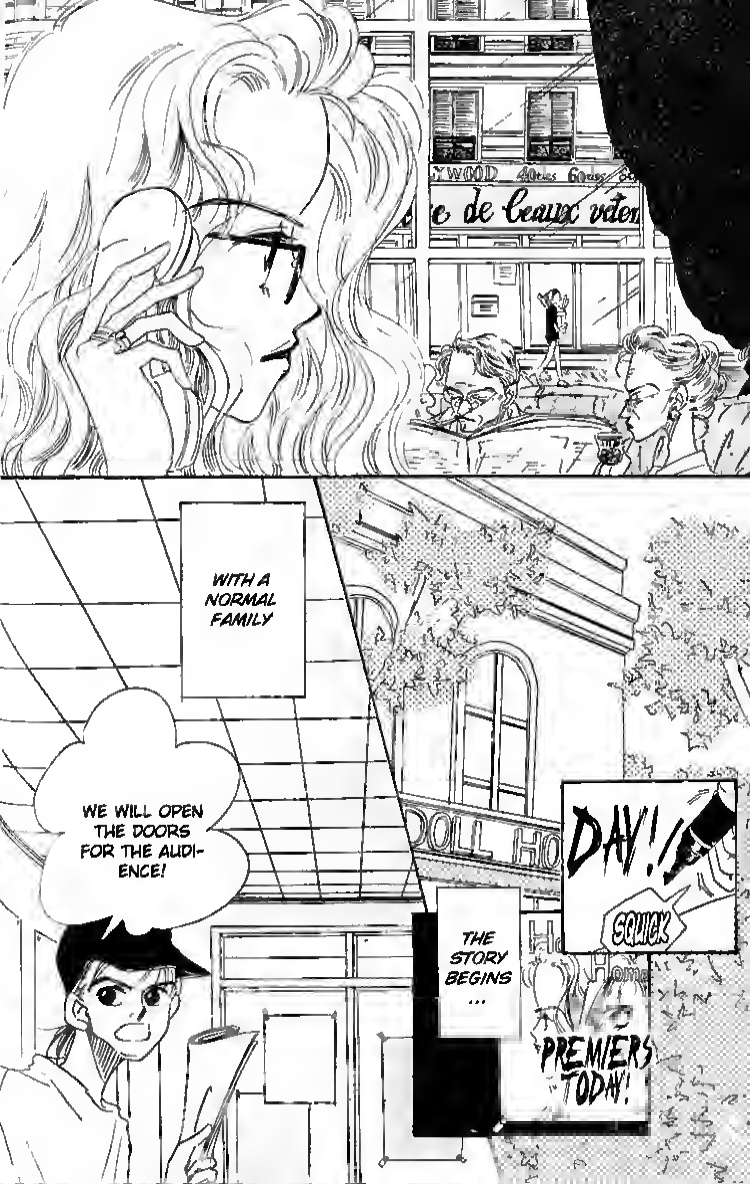
III

"TO HOME" IS A CONTINUATION OF "HOMEMADE HOME." IT WAS SUPPOSED TO BE A SIDE-STORY, BUT IT TURNED OUT TO BE 70 PAGES! NOT TO MENTION, I HAVE SUCH A SLOW PACE THAT IT TOOK ME FOREVER TO DRAW THIS. IN ADDITION, I WAS MOVING TO MY NEW APARTMENT AND LEAVING FOR A VACATION ALL AT ONCE. THERE ARE SO MANY THINGS I NEED TO DO THAT MY HEAD IS ABOUT TO EXPLODE. MY ADVICE TO OTHER SLOW-PACED MANGAKAS: "DON'T PLAN TO MOVE OUT AND GO ON VACATION AT THE SAME TIME..."



I WANT TO BECOME A RESPONSIBLE MANGAKA, ONE WHO WILL FINISH HER WORK ON TIME.

THIS TIME,
I WILL TELL HER THAT SHE IS VERY IMPORTANT TO ME.
okay!
Itsumi, give me a hand!
THAT'S WHAT SHE SAID.
WHAT DO YOU PLAN TO DO?


WITH A NORMAL FAMILY
WE WILL OPEN THE DOORS FOR THE AUDIENCE!
THE STORY BEGINS ...
DAY!!
SCHICK
PREMIERS TODAY!

WE DESTROY, WE CREATE, AND WE DESTROY AGAIN.
WE CRY, WE LAUGH, AND WE FIGHT.
WE POUR OUR SOULS LITTLE BY LITTLE INTO A CONTAINER.
SHIORI IS NEXT, PROCEED TO THE STAGE!
SHIORI?
HHUC CKK!
FALLS
KYAA!
I'LL GO ON STAGE.
MY STOMACH HURTS.
OH, MY! ARE YOU OKAY?

TIES
KEI?!
SOON AFTER ...

FROM THE HOUSE, A LOVE WAS BORN.
AND FROM THAT LOVE, A HOME WAS MADE.
BUILDING EACH WALL BRICK BY BRICK...
IT'S NATSUME KEI!
UWAH!!
chatter chatter

WOW!
KYAAAAAA!

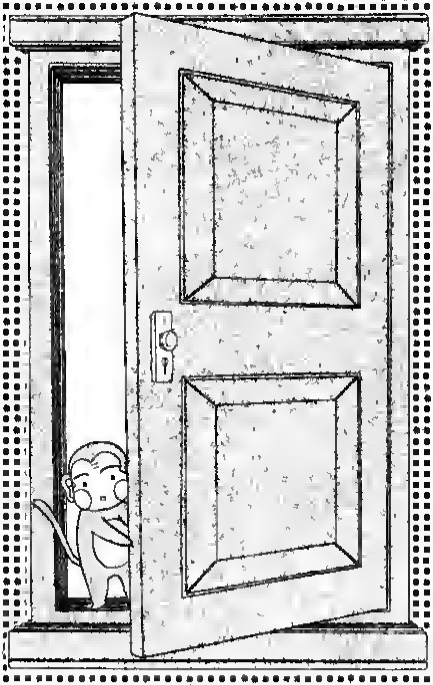
YOU
AMUSEMENT
BRING MOM WITH YOU...
O.K!
OUR CELEBRATION PARTY WILL BE HELD NEXT TO THE THEATER AT "PUMPKIN HOUSE."
OKAY.
AH, SEIJI!
TAP
TAP
TAP
RUN
RUN
RUN

YEAH...
BUT WITH THINGS LIKE THIS, IT'S GOING TO BE EVEN HARDER FROM NOW ON.
THANK YOU FOR YOUR HARD WORK.
TIRED?
ANOTHER ACHIEVE-MENT OF BEING A MOTHER.
SHALL WE?
COME ON.
THUMP
I'VE LOST ALL MY ENERGY
KEI?

AND THEN...
CAN I CRY?
ONE MONTH LATER ...
THE VERY SHOCKING NEWS OF MOTHER'S SECOND MARRIAGE TO SEIJI.
WHAT?!
WHEN I ASKED MOM, "WHY DID YOU RETURN TO JAPAN?
SHE ANSWERED, LAUGHING, "BECAUSE THE WORLD HAS ALREADY COLLAPSED."
SKUNK
THAT DAY ...
You could have consulted with me a little
Let's begin the rehearsal
WHY NOT?

Kei has become more audacious...
I'LL TAKE ON ALL THE ACTRESSES IN THIS UNIVERSE!
ALRIGHT! LET'S WORK HARD!
HUAAAAAA!
KUROKI'S MOVIES ARE INSIGNIFICANT!
I'VE REALIZED THAT I DON'T UNDERSTAND HER AT ALL.
MOM. MOM!
SINCE THERE IS PLENTY OF TIME AHEAD OF US...
CONGRATULATIONS
Can you guys hurry up?
ECK
LET'S SUPPORT EACH OTHER FROM NOW ON.
Felicitations!

LET'S MAKE OUR HOME!



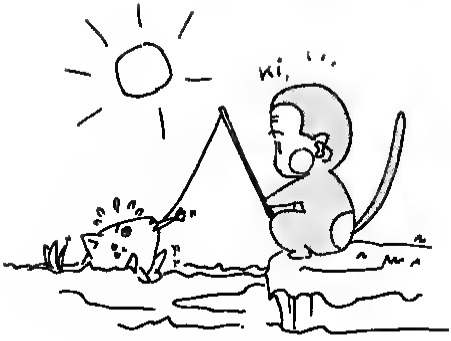
HOMEMADE HOME

WELCOME TO OUR HOME

Homemade Home End

HOMEMADE HOME, BY ASHIHARA HINAKO
JAPANESE ISBN ?
KOREAN ISBN 89-528-7427-7
PLEASE STOP DISTRIBUTION IF LICENSED.
PLEASE HELP SUPPORT THIS MANGAKA
BY PURCHASING MANGA BY HER.
HER MANGA 'FORBIDDEN DANCE' IS AVAIL-
ABLE IN ENGLISH FROM TOKYOPOP.

SCANNER: MEGKF
TRANSLATOR: KEIRA
EDITOR: RYO^M
QC-ER: MEGKF


hi,

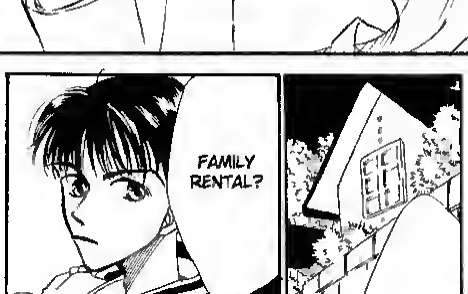
TO HOME

BIRTH-
DAY?
HE HAS A
VERY COLD
PERSONALITY.
WHOSE?

TODAY, NOVEMBER 2ND. I TOLD YOU BEFORE, RIGHT?
MINE. MY BIRTH-DAY.
AH, YOU DID.
...
WELL, HAPPY BIRTHDAY.
SLURP
I'LL TELL YOU RIGHT NOW THAT I DON'T HAVE ANY MONEY.
PI SS ED
IS THAT WHY YOU CALLED ME?
BURBLE
BURBLE

MUNCH
MUNCH
MUNCH
THIS IS NOT SOME-THING TO LAUGH ABOUT, SHIORI.
THAT'S JUST LIKE SHUU.
THIS JERK!
SHUU DOESN'T HAVE MUCH INTEREST IN ANYTHING OTHER THAN ACTING.
HAHAHA
THAT'S JUST THE WAY HE IS.
Itsumi will have a hard time
HAHA
True, true
HA HAHAHA
SHIORI!
IF A GUY IS TOO COLD, THEN...
LET ME TELL YOU...
WHAT ARE YOU GUYS TALKING ABOUT?
AH, SHUU...
THEATER DOLL HOUSE
HA HA HA HA HA
I AM NOT!
TWI TCH
DON'T TELL ME YOU'RE STILL ANGRY?

ITSUMI. GIVE ME YOUR HAND.
THIS SHOULD EASE YOUR ANGER, OKAY?
ONCE AGAIN HE MANAGED TO ESCAPE.
I guess he really doesn't have any money
candies
What is it?
IT'S NOT BECAUSE OF THE BIRTHDAY PRESENT, THAT I AM ANGRY.



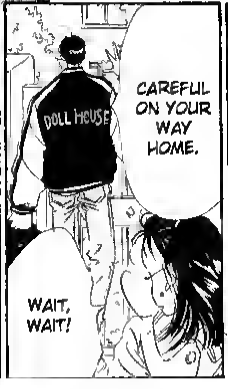
I REALLY HATE IT.

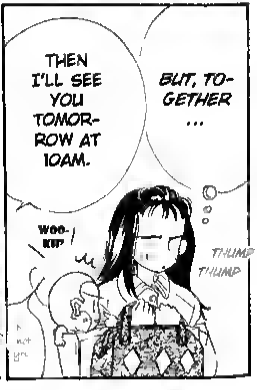
I HAVE A REQUEST FROM THE KANZAKI* FAMILY...
THEIR DAUGHTER RAN AWAY FROM HOME, AND THEY NEED SOMEONE TO COVER FOR THE OMIAI.**
I THOUGHT MAYBE YOU AND I COULD DO IT.

*Trans note: the Kanzaki family is known for their business success.
**Trans note: an omiai is a formal wedding interview

ARE YOU GOING TO VOLUNTEER TOO?
THEY WANT A YOUNG AND HANDSOME SUPPORTING ACTOR WITH GOOD ACTING SKILLS.
That's why it's me
WE NEED TO PERFORM PERFECTLY, SO TOMORROW WE BEGIN A THREE DAY TRAINING SESSION.
DOLL
hmm...
SHOULD I TRY IT?
This is like a secret side job for the DOLL HOUSE theater group.
It is an easy job for any actor or actress
It's main purpose is to bring happiness, through acting, to those who need help.
*MONKI-CHI EXPLAINS ALL

I'm a girl, a girl...
WALK ME HOME!
IT'S ONLY 8PM.


DOLL HOUSE
CAREFUL ON YOUR WAY HOME.
WAIT, WAIT!


THEN I'LL SEE YOU TOMORROW AT 10AM.
BUT, TOGETHER ...
WOO-HP
THUMP THUMP

SPLASH
OH MY.
YOUR HOUSE IS IN THE SAME DIRECTION AS MINE!
YOU ARE SO MEAN! I ALWAYS WALK YOU HOME!
I'M TRULY SORRY. I THOUGHT IT WAS A PEEPING TOM OR A DRUNK.
PEEPING... WHO WOULD ...
I SEE...
L HOUSE
CLICK
SHUU!
Ah! It's brother!
MOM...
HUH?
HEY!
HARUKI! NATSU! TOUDA! SACHI!
Wow! It's a monkey!
monkey!
monkey!
CRASH!
BUMP
THUD
YOSHIOKA BROTHERS

Hehe
Sachi has too much energy
kyaa!
Quick, put on your diaper
IT'S VERY LIVELY.
YOU THINK?
It's fun at times
NOT AT ALL.
THIS HOUSE IS VERY NOISY, RIGHT?
THIS HOUSE FEELS VERY WARM.
Hehe
BRO-THER
Ah
Brother say ah

GROWING UP IN SUCH A HOME...
HOW CAN HE STILL BE SO COLD?
KANAKI
WOW!
THIS HOUSE IS ENOR-MOUS!
They must be rich!
DING DONG

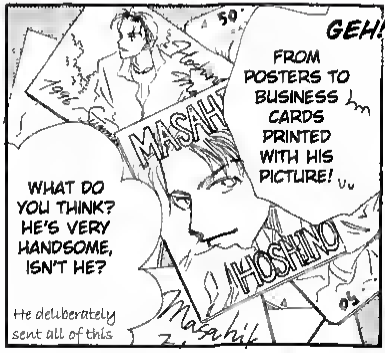
DI
ONG
DI
ONG
DI
ONG

...YES.
YOU ARE TAKATO SHUU, I PRESUME.
A PLEASURE TO MEET YOU.
THIS IS THE KITCHEN.
THE PARLOR IS DOWN THE HALL.
MY HUSBAND IS ON A BUSINESS TRIP RIGHT NOW. SO PLEASE FEEL FREE TO MAKE YOURSELVES AT HOME.
THE TWO OF YOU WILL HAVE SEPARATE ROOMS ON THE SECOND FLOOR.
Wow A Japanese garden.

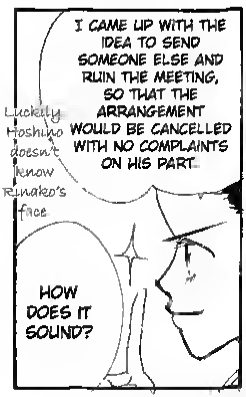
SHALL I SHOW YOU TO YOUR ROOMS FIRST?
OR WOULD YOU LIKE TO HAVE A MEAL...?
MRS. KANZAKI.
I WOULD LIKE TO GET DOWN TO BUSINESS FIRST.
AH.
I SEE. I UNDERSTAND.
MY APOLOGIES.
I'M A BIT NERVOUS, SO...
THUNK
Why?
TAP. TAP TAP
THIS IS MY DAUGHTER, KINAKO ...
AND THIS GOOD-LOOKING PERSON IS HOSHINO MASAHIKO.
I HEARD THAT YOUR DAUGHTER RAN AWAY FROM HOME...
I hate this type of guy
BUT SHE DOES THIS FREQUENTLY.
THIS MIGHT SOUND VERY HUMILIATING ...

SINCE I'M HER STEP-MOTHER, SHE IS NOT VERY RESPECT-FUL TO ME.
SHE JUST TURNED 22 AND HAS STARTED TO LOITER AROUND... SO I DECIDED TO ARRANGE A MARRIAGE FOR HER.
SHE EVEN DROPPED OUT OF THE COLLEGE SHE TRIED SO HARD FOR.
MAYBE IT WAS A BIT SUDDEN.
SHE USUALLY ENDS UP AT HER FRIEND'S HOUSE.
SOUNDS FAMILIAR.
FORWARD LEANING
WHY ARE YOU LOOKING AT ME?
SHE THINKS I'M JUST PERSECUT-ING HER.
SO, I JUST NEED TO TAKE HER PLACE AT THE OMIAI?
YES.
GRINS
LET'S TRY OUR BEST TO RUIN THIS.

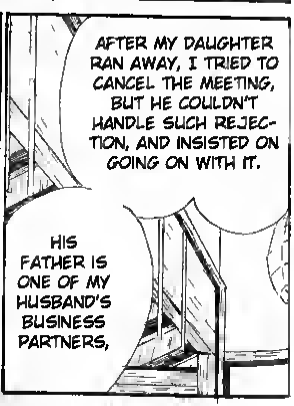
To Home


GEH!
FROM POSTERS TO BUSINESS CARDS PRINTED WITH HIS PICTURE!
WHAT DO YOU THINK? HE'S VERY HANDSOME, ISN'T HE?
He deliberately sent all of this
MASAHI
HOSHINO
1996
50'
02

LOOK AT ALL THIS.
DUMP
WHAT ?!


I CAME UP WITH THE IDEA TO SEND SOMEONE ELSE AND RUIN THE MEETING, SO THAT THE ARRANGEMENT WOULD BE CANCELLED WITH NO COMPLAINTS ON HIS PART.
Luckily Hoshino doesn't know Rinako's face
HOW DOES IT SOUND?

WHICH MAKES IT DIFFICULT TO REJECT HIM.
GULP


AFTER MY DAUGHTER RAN AWAY, I TRIED TO CANCEL THE MEETING, BUT HE COULDN'T HANDLE SUCH REJECTION, AND INSISTED ON GOING ON WITH IT.
HIS FATHER IS ONE OF MY HUSBAND'S BUSINESS PARTNERS,

SOUNDS LIKE FUN, RIGHT?
Yes

I THINK I CAN DO WELL ON THE ACTING.
I REALLY LIKE MRS. KANZAKI.
Kuro, here's your food
Ah!?
Ah!?
SHE SEEMS TO BE AN EASY-GOING PERSON, RIGHT?
WHAT DO YOU HAVE IN THERE?
ANYWAY, YOU SURE HAVE A LOT OF LUGGAGE.
AH, THIS?
ARE YOU LISTEN-ING TO ME?
YES.
Let's pretend we didn't see him.
MUNCH MUNCH
SH uis
MUNCH
OPENS
OF COURSE, SINCE I'M THEIR DAUGHTER FOR NOW, I BOUGHT MANY NEW OUTFITS...
MUNCH MUNCH

ITSUMI! SHUU!
COME DOWNSTAIRS AND LET'S HAVE LUNCH!
THE 3 DAYS WERE SLIPPING BY.
Oh dear
He's called Mouku chi
WOO -KH!
Let's see kunaro went to Ok elementary and middle school, and joined the tennis club in high school.
YOU DON'T NEED TO MEMORIZE ALL THE DETAILS!
I MEMORIZED ALL THE DETAILS TO BE A PERFECT SUBSTITUTE.
Would it be too suspicious?
You mean, everything from University?
Kuro you two are getting along
YUP

AND THEN ...
HA HA HA HA HA
SUCH THINGS DON'T MATTER. JUST TRY TO CALM DOWN!
I CAN'T REMEMBER RINAKO'S FAVORITE POEM!
FINALLY, DOWN TO BUSINESS ...
Green Hotel
MOK-MOK!
ITSUMI
So in the scene She will put his feet like this and then next will be Aoiuke-chi
Just remember these steps
KYAA! THIS IS BAD!
WAITING ROOM
DON'T MAKE ANY MISTAKES!
DON'T GIVE ME ANY MORE STRESS!

He's here.
MR. HOSHINO HAS ARRIVED.
WELCOME, MR. HOSHINO, THE GUESTS HAVE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU.
HMPH.
This jerk
OK.
LET'S DO THIS.

MY NAME IS RINAKO.
RINAKO, THIS IS MR. HOSHINO.
PLEASED TO MEET YOU.
SUCH BEAUTY, NOW I UNDERSTAND WHY...
THE MOTHER DIDN'T WISH TO GIVE THE DAUGHTER AWAY.
AS I THOUGHT.
OH MY. WHAT A GENTLEMANLY THING TO SAY.

THIS MAN HAS AN INSOLENT AIR.
BU MP!
I ALREADY FEEL A STRONG HATRED TOWARD HIM ...
ALTHOUGH THIS IS OUR FIRST MEETING,
AH.
DROP
IS IT TRUE THAT YOU ARE GOOD AT PLAYING THE KOTO?*
YES, A LITTLE BIT.
I'M GLAD THAT RINAKO RAN AWAY.

*The koto is a traditional Japanese musical instrument.

!!
STEP
SLIDE
STAND
PLEASE, LET ME PICK IT UP FOR YOU.
GOOD
OH, I'M SORRY.
THEN, LET'S CONTINUE.
WOOSH
MON-KICK!
WO OO SH!
AH, THE NAPKIN ...
SWI NGS BACK
AH--- FAILURE!
FLIP FLIP
I APOL-OGIZE.
YOU SHOULD BE MORE CAREFUL WITH THOSE LONG LEGS.

COULD IT BE THAT THIS PERSON KNOWS OF OUR PLAN?
So the butler called Katsura kept telling me...
Oh, that's too bad
DID SOMETHING JUST PASS BY?
NO, NOTHING DID.
FLIP FLIP
THERE'S NO WAY HE COULD KNOW...
LET ME SERVE YOU THE WINE.
BY ANY CHANCE DOES THIS WINE CONTAIN SOME KIND OF DRUG?
IT CONTAINS DRUGS THAT CAUSE DIARRHEA.
DIE!
WAITER.
HOW CAN I HELP YOU, SIR?

BRING ME A NEW ONE.
POUR
OUT
SIR, HOW COULD THAT BE POSSI-BLE...
HMPH.
THUD
WHY, WHAT'S THE MATTER ?

WHY DO YOU STILL KEEP YOUR COOL IN SUCH A SITUATION?
Toilettes
I'LL BRING YOU ANOTHER GLASS.
THIS IS TOO ABSURD...
IT'S NOTHING
FL OF
WHATEVER WE DO, IT WILL NOT OVERCOME HIS STUBBORNNESS
I'LL MAKE SURE TO CALL HIS PARENTS AND REJECT THE ENGAGEMENT.
HUH?
LET'S GO HOME.
Marrying off a daughter just for business reasons is not nice at all
I'M SURE MY HUSBAND WILL UNDERSTAND.
I DON'T THINK I CAN STAND HOSHINO'S ATTITUDE ANY LONGER
THERE'S NOTHING WE CAN DO ABOUT IT
Shouldn't we end this more nicely?
BUT IT WOULD TROUBLE YOUR HUSBAND'S BUSINESS PARTNERSHIP...

I'M SORRY. WE WERE THE ONES THAT INVITED YOU, AND IT HAD TO END THIS WAY.
IT'S ALRIGHT, SINCE YOU'RE MOTHER IS FEELING UNWELL.
IS THIS WHERE YOU ARE WAITING?
OPEN
I'VE CALLED THE CAR FOR YOU.
THANK YOU.
I WILL BE EXPECTING TO MEET WITH YOU AGAIN SOME OTHER TIME.
.....
DID HE EVER DISCOVER THE PLAN?
I CAN'T UNDERSTAND THIS PERSON.
GRAB
THAT SOUNDS GOOD.

PER-
FECT.
I ONLY THOUGHT ABOUT PLAYING AROUND A BIT.
THEN ...
GRIP
WHAT?
SHOULD I GET SERIOUS TOO?
EXCUSE ME!
MISS KANZAKI.
YOUR RIDE HAS ARRIVED.

TELL THEM SHE'LL BE RIGHT OUT.
TU RN
THEN I'LL BE ...
GRAB
GO.
HELP ME, SHUU!
GRASP
SHUU.
WHAT'S THE MATTER? YOU CAN GO.

I UNDER-
STAND.
PLEASE
EXCUSE
ME.
WAIT A
MINUTE!
SHUU!
SH
UT
HEY...

I KNOW THIS IS JUST A JOB.
AND IF I FAIL HERE EVERY-THING WILL COME OUT.
BUT WHAT ABOUT MY FEEL-INGS?!
MISS RINAKO ...
SLAP
OUCH!
we're doomed

IT'S OKAY, ITSUMI.
WE WERE GOING TO CALL OFF THE ENGAGEMENT ANYWAY.
ALTHOUGH, HE WAS A BIT UPSET ...
HONK HONK VROOM
I'M SORRY...
A BIT ...?
WAIT AND SEE!
IF YOU EVER WANT TO DO BUSINESS WITH US AGAIN,
BUT HE DESERVED IT!
NOT SO?
I'M REALLY SORRY.
IT DOESN'T MATTER.
EVERYTHING IS OKAY. REALLY.
I'M WORRIED BECAUSE IT SEEMED THAT HE KNEW OUR PLAN...
I'LL TRY TO TALK TO MR. HOSHINO, SO PLEASE GIVE ME SOME TIME
PLEASE LET ME DO THIS. I CAN'T JUST LEAVE IT THIS WAY.
DON'T YOU AGREE?

I'M GOING TO DO THIS ALONE.
ITSUMI?
HMMM ...
SO YOU WERE THINKING THIS FAR AHEAD?
THAN FOR HIM TO FIND OUT THE TRUTH ABOUT OUR PLAN.
I THINK IT'S BETTER FOR HIM TO BE ANGRY YOU SLAPPED HIM.
ACTING SO COLD FOR SUCH A REASON.
YOU'RE ANGRY?
OF COURSE.

DID I SAY ANY-THING?
I SHOULDN'T ?
AH... PLEASE!
YOU TWO, STOP FIGHTING!
AFTER SEEING SUCH A SCENE, HE HASN'T CHANGED AT ALL.
BE THAT WAY.
DOES THIS MEAN THAT I'M NOTHING TO YOU?
IT PISSES ME OFF!
SKREE
HMM?
THE LIGHTS ARE ON ...
SHUT

AH, COMING HOME AT THIS HOUR?
RINAKO!
OPEN
WHEN DID YOU COME BACK?
AM I BOTHERING YOU?
ANYWAY, THIS IS ALSO MY HOUSE.
BOTHERING ME? NOT AT ALL...
FATHER IS ALSO HOME.
WHAT?
I JUST TOLD HIM ON THE PHONE THAT YOU DRAGGED A YOUNG MAN HERE.
YOU EVEN SENT THE MAIDS AWAY FOR A VACATION. WHAT WERE YOU PLANNING?
IS HE IN THE PARLOR?
YES.

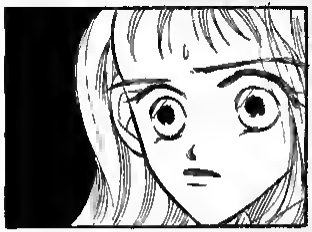
RUSHES
TAP TAP TAP
OPEN
MRS. KINZAKI?
HELLO.
YES. HELLO.
WE HAD FUN LOOKING AT YOUR PICTURES.
What are you trying to say?
RUSHES

I don't understand
MRS. KANZAKI HAS NEVER MENTIONED US TO HER HUSBAND?
DO YOU MIND TELLING ME WHAT IS GOING ON?
I APOLOGIZE FOR NOT TELLING YOU THE DETAILS ...
BUT FOR THE SAKE OF YOUR BUSINESS, I NEEDED SOME HELP ...
I KNOW THAT.
I'M NOT ASKING ABOUT MY BUSINESS SITUATION.
THAT KID IS SHUU, RIGHT?
HE'S YOUR SON.
THE ONE YOU GAVE AWAY 12 YEARS AGO.

End Ch2, part A

I KNOW THAT YOU WANT TO SEE HIM,
BUT DON'T YOU THINK IT'S TOO LATE FOR THAT NOW?

AS EXPECTED.



YOU'LL ONLY CAUSE HIM PAIN.
SHUU ...

I WAS WONDERING FROM THE START...
I CAN'T THINK STRAIGHT RIGHT NOW...
WAIT.
IT WAS THE SAME NAME.
BUT MY MEMORIES FROM WHEN I WAS 6 WERE TOO UNCLEAR TO RECALL.
BUT SHUU, YOU HAVE YOUR OWN FAMILY.
CARING PARENTS,
CUTE LITTLE SIBLINGS ...
WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN ?
EEEK!

SHOVE
Ha, ha that's a funny face
DON'T GET TOO SERIOUS.
It scares me when you act like that
IS IT SOME-THING YOU CAN'T TELL ME?!
IT'S NOT LIKE THAT.
IT'S A LONG STORY.
JUST DO YOUR JOB FOR NOW.
HOW CAN YOU BE SO COLD?!
YOU'RE WEIRD, SHUU!
VERY WEIRD!

I DON'T KNOW MYSELF.
BUT I DO KNOW THAT IT ISN'T MY FAULT.
BEING THIS WAY.

You are my daughter that I have been separated from since birth
What?!
AH.
CLICK
THEY ARE STILL AIRING THIS DRAMA.
IT FELT LIKE I WAS WATCHING A MORNING DRAMA.
I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS IS FOR REAL.
CLICK
HM?
BORING
HE'S THE SON YOU GAVE AWAY 12 YEARS AGO.
SHUU IS SMILING ...
Ah ha ha ha
Ah ha ha ha
HOP

I DON'T KNOW MYSELF
BUT I KNOW IT'S NOT MY FAULT.
BEING THIS WAY.
THIS PERSON ...
AH.
NOW I SEE.
IS NOT COLD, HE JUST DOESN'T KNOW HOW TO EXPRESS HIS FEELINGS.
...MI!
ITSUMI!
PHONE.

THIS EARLY IN THE MORNING, AND THE FIRST THING YOU DO IS CRY.
Snap out of it.
I'm with you!
blah, blah
She is a loud person.
COULD IT BE FROM THE THEATER?
A phone call?
WHO IS IT?
AH, ...
HOW SHOULD I KNOW? IT'S A MAN.
PHONE! WHY ARE YOU CRYING? IT ANNOYS ME!
YES?
CRIES
ITSUMI SPEAKING.
YES, HELLO.
SOB
Itsumi?
Hoshino Masahiko.
It's me.
Huh?
SOB
WHO IS 'ME'?

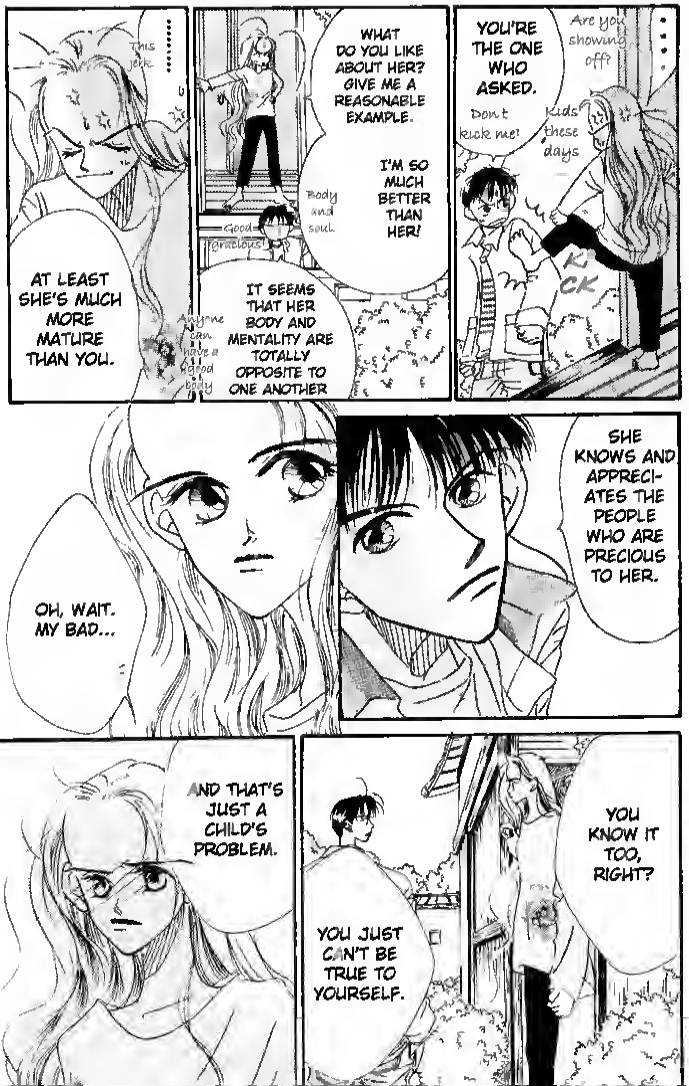
I'd like to talk to you about .
Takato Shuu and Kanzaki's wife.
Can you meet me?
SOB
If you won't, I can't guarantee what will happen...
THIS PERSON KNOWS EVERY-THING!

DASH
ITSUMI!?
I'LL BE BACK IN A LITTLE WHILE!
HOW...
. . . .
HOW CAN THAT PERSON KNOW EVERY-THING?
I GOT A CALL THE DAY BEFORE THE OMIAI,
"RINAKO IS A FAKE, AND WATCH OUT FOR THE WAITER AND THE MONKEY."
SUCH A PATHETIC PLAN.

THE PAST OF KANZAKI HISAYO.
BUT I FOUND SOMETHING EVEN MORE INTEREST-ING.
I WAS GOING TO OVER-LOOK THIS MATTER.
UNTIL YOU SLAPPED ME. IT MADE ME ANGRY.
SO I DID SOME RESEARCH.
THUD
Documents.
YOU DON'T HEAR SUCH STORIES OFTEN.
A WIFE WHO COULDN'T STAND HER HUSBAND'S VIOLENCE, THREW HER CHILD AWAY, AND MARRIED A SECOND TIME.
VERY INTEREST-ING.
I WONDER WHAT OTHER PEOPLE WOULD THINK ABOUT THIS?
HOW CAN THERE BE SUCH STORIES NOW A DAYS?
PLEASE DON'T SPEAK OF HER THAT WAY.
WHO WOULD HAVE THOUGHT THAT THE COMPANY PRESIDENT'S WIFE...
THE CHILD WAS GIVEN TO A COUPLE WHO HAD NO KIDS AND LIVED HAPPILY EVER AFTER.

A DEVIL
DON'T YOU THINK SOMEONE MIGHT GET HURT?
WOULD THEY BE SURPRISED?
DAUGHTER, SIBLINGS, FRIENDS, AND PEOPLE AROUND THEM.
I DON'T LIKE TO BE SEEN IN PUBLIC TOO MUCH.
LET'S GO SOMEWHERE ELSE.
STAND
THIS IS MY FIRST TIME.
MY BODY IS SHAKING FROM HEAD TO TOE.

ITSUMI, ITSUMI. JUST BE QUIET!
I can't even read a book!
ITSUMI!!
ITSUMI!!
THUD
ITSUMI!!
AH, RINAKO, HAVE YOU SEEN ITSUMI?
This house is too big for me to find her
WHY DON'T YOU LEAVE HER ALONE?
SHE'S NOT A 10 YEAR OLD KID.
Give me a break
THAT'S WEIRD. WHERE DID SHE GO?
I HAVEN'T !
SCRATCH
SCRATCH
YES.
DO YOU LIKE HER?
How can you know her so well?
SHE'S GOOD AT GETTING IN TROUBLE WHEN LEFT ALONE.
I CAN'T LEAVE HER ALONE.
Did she go home?


AT LEAST SHE'S MUCH MORE MATURE THAN YOU.
This joke.....
IT SEEMS THAT HER BODY AND MENTALITY ARE TOTALLY OPPOSITE TO ONE ANOTHER
Good-for-nothing body
Good-for-nothing body
WHAT DO YOU LIKE ABOUT HER? GIVE ME A REASONABLE EXAMPLE.
I'M SO MUCH BETTER THAN HER!
Body and soul.
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO ASKED.
Are you showing off?
Don't kick me!
Kids these days
KICK
SHE KNOWS AND APPRECIATES THE PEOPLE WHO ARE PRECIOUS TO HER.
OH, WAIT. MY BAD...
AND THAT'S JUST A CHILD'S PROBLEM.
YOU JUST CAN'T BE TRUE TO YOURSELF.
YOU KNOW IT TOO, RIGHT?

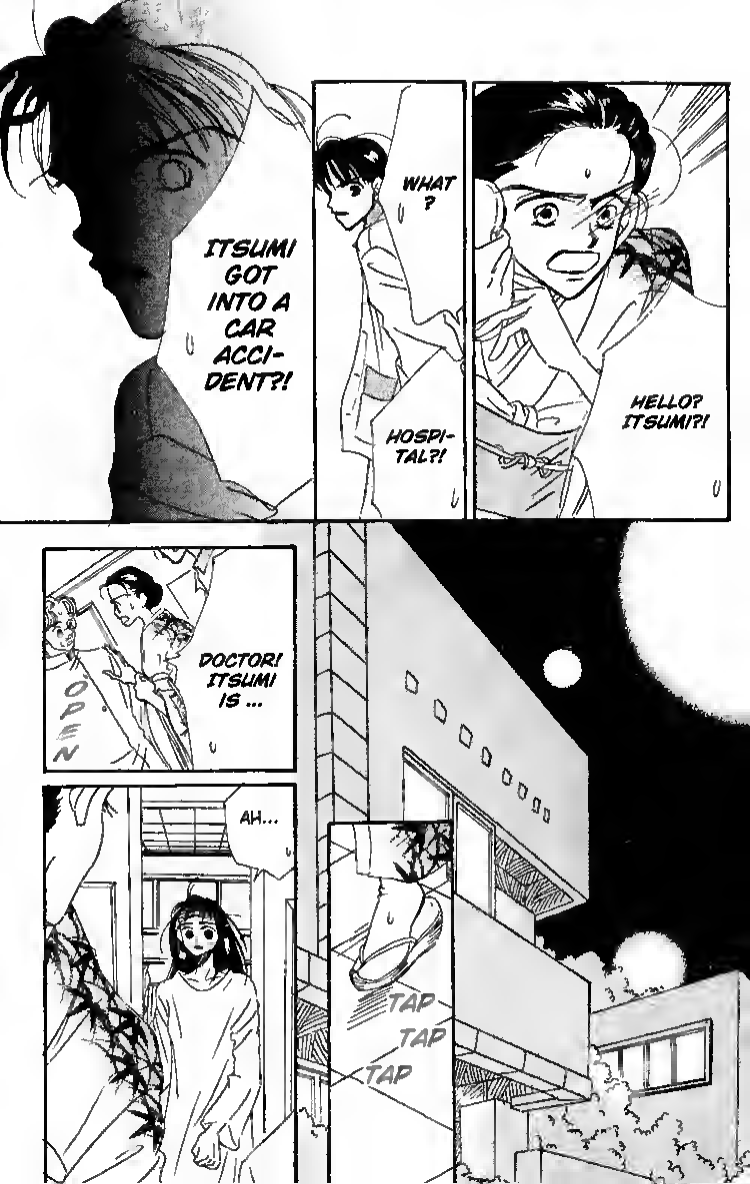
WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
I DON'T GET THIS...
I DON'T THINK YOU'LL GAIN ANY-THING FROM THIS
WHAT'S YOUR REAL PURPOSE?
WE'LL GO SOME-WHERE TOGETHER, PRINCESS.
IF YOU THINK EVERY THING SERVES A PURPOSE, THEN YOU ARE QUITE MISTAKEN.
THERE'S NO NEED FOR REASONS.
CHUC KLE
AND I DOUBT YOU HAVE ANY INTEREST IN ME.

I WAS BORED.
AT WORK, I WAS DYING OF BOREDOM.
ESPECIALLY IN MY POSITION, IT'S SO BORING IT DRIVES ME CRAZY.
EVEN IF I DON'T DO ANYTHING, PEOPLE DON'T SAY ANYTHING. ACTUALLY, THEY CAN'T.
IT'S VERY DULL!
I NEED MORE EXCITEMENT.

WHY...?
IS THAT YOUR EXCUSE FOR HURTING OTHERS?
WHY DO PEOPLE LIKE YOU EXIST?!
SCREECH!
CRASH

EVERY-ONE ...
TRIES SO HARD TO LIVE AND MOVE ON.
WEEEOOOO
WEEEOOOO
WEEEOOOO
TICK
TOCK
12
3
6
9
.....
LET'S REPORT THIS TO THE POLICE.
IF IT IS ITSUMI YOU ARE LOOKING FOR, SHE IS OUT WITH HOSHINO.
SHE IS NOWHERE TO BE FOUND! NOT AT HER HOUSE... NOT AT THE THEATER OR A FRIEND'S HOUSE...!
HOW CAN YOU SAY THAT SO CALMLY?! WE ARE RESPON-SIBLE FOR THAT CHILD!
That's right
WE DON'T HAVE TO DO THAT YET.
It's only 10 o'clock.
STAND

WHY DIDN'T YOU SAY ANY-THING?!
IT'S BECAUSE YOU TRY TO BE SO CLOSE TO THOSE KIDS!
I'M SURE THAT MAN WAS HOSHINO. HE CALLED THIS MORNING.
!
I EVEN CALLED HOSHINO AND TOLD HIM ABOUT YOUR PLANS!
I JUST ENJOY SEEING YOU UPSET.
RING
RING
RING
RUN!
I WILL LISTEN TO YOUR EXCUSES LATER.
SLAP


ITSUMI GOT INTO A CAR ACCI-DENT?!
WHAT ?
HOSPI-TAL?!
HELLO? ITSUMI?!
OPEN
DOCTOR! ITSUMI IS ...
AH...
TAP
TAP
TAP

I'M SORRY, I ...
ITSUMI?!

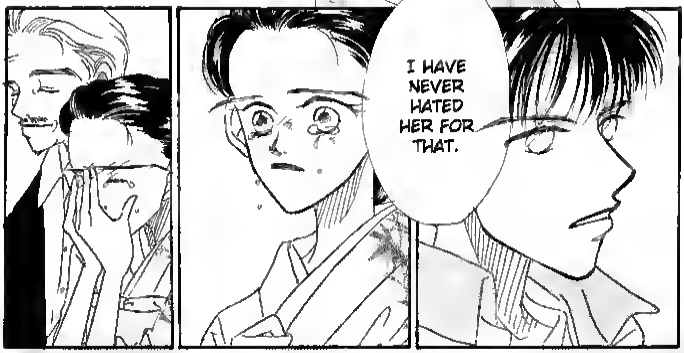
DON'T YOU EVER SCARE ME LIKE THAT AGAIN...
DON'T...

I KNOW THEM BETTER THAN ANYONE ELSE.
I'M SORRY, SHUU.
SORRY...
THESE TWO WARM HANDS...
I LOVE THIS PERSON WITH HIS WARM HANDS.
MORE THAN WORDS ...
MORE THAN JUST EXPRES-SIONS ...

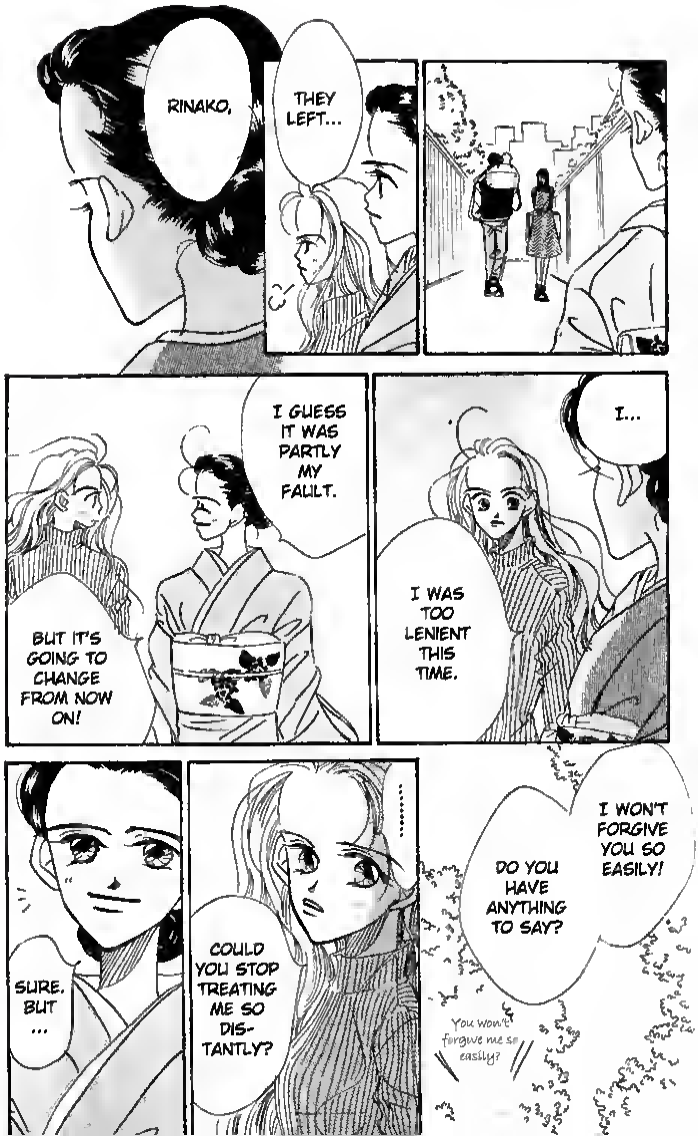
THEY ARE PRE-CIOUS.
TODDLE
ACK!
KICK
WHAT WERE YOU THINK-ING?! YOU ARE MESSED UP!
YOU COULD HAVE KILLED ME!
ARE YOU STILL ALIVE?
WHY, YOU!
I WANTED TO KILL YOU

A PERSON LIKE YOU...
I WANTED YOU TO BE DEAD.
LET IT GO.
PEOPLE LIKE HIM CAN'T EVEN LEARN IN HELL.
THE LOUD VOICE OF MY DRUNKEN FATHER,
AND THE FACE OF MY CRYING MOTHER ...
ARE THE ONLY THINGS I REMEMBER FROM WHEN I WAS 6.

THAT'S THE REASON THAT I BECAME SO COLD.
I'M ACTUALLY GETTING BETTER AT EXPRESSION....
SORRY U ..
AT THE AGE OF 6, I GOT SCOUTED BY THE THEATER GROUP TO WORK FOR THE RENTAL FAMILY.
I WAS VERY MOVED WHEN THEY ASKED ME, "DO YOU WANT TO BE OUR CHILD?"
THE HOUSE THAT I WENT TO HAD VERY LOVING PARENTS. IT WAS TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE.
I WAS VERY HAPPY.
HISAYO KNEW ABOUT THIS,
AND THAT IS WHY SHE LEFT ME WITH THEM AND DISAPPEARED.


THAT'S HOW MUCH SHE LOVED ME.
I HAVE NEVER HATED HER FOR THAT.

NOT AT ALL. THANK YOU FOR TAKING CARE OF US FOR 4 DAYS.
SOB
SOB
TAKE CARE.
THE NEXT DAY,
IT WAS A BRIGHT AUTUMN MORNING.
I'M REALLY SORRY ...
FOR MAKING YOU GO THROUGH SUCH THINGS.
wee-eee!
let's meet again.


RINAKO,
THEY LEFT...
I GUESS IT WAS PARTLY MY FAULT.
BUT IT'S GOING TO CHANGE FROM NOW ON!
I...
I WAS TOO LENIENT THIS TIME.
SURE. BUT ...
COULD YOU STOP TREATING ME SO DIS-TANTLY?
.....
DO YOU HAVE ANYTHING TO SAY?
I WON'T FORGIVE YOU SO EASILY!
You won't forgive me so easily?

IS IT OKAY? YOU HAVEN'T SPOKEN TO HISAYO PROPERLY.
So sleepy
YAWN
IT'S OKAY.
TALKING WILL NOT RETURN US TO THE PAST.
True
YAWN
ONLY IF YOU CALL ME MOM.
LET'S GO.
I WANT TO RETURN TO MY LOVELY HOME.
I...

ELEC-
TRIC
POLE
THUMP
I WANT TO BE A PART OF YOUR FAMILY.
WHAT'S WRONG WITH WHAT I'VE SAID?
YOU'RE SCARING ME.
Hey don't you run away from me!
Ah, so scary
KYAA !
KATHUNK
SOMEDAY.

BUT ONLY IF YOU CARRY ALL THE BAGS YOURSELF.
WHAT DID YOU SAY?!
I'LL THINK ABOUT IT.
Huh
DOLL HOU
We should get going
WAIT FOR ME!
GASP
I HOPE SOMEDAY ...
THAT WE RETURN TO THE SAME HOME.
YOU DEVIL!

A HOME FULL OF HAPPINESS,

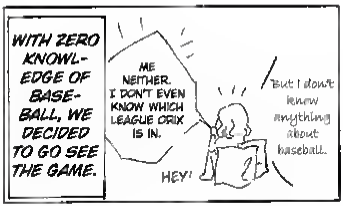
AND SOMETIMES SORROWS,

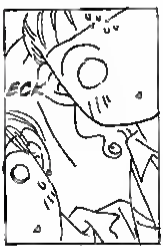
MY ONE AND ONLY

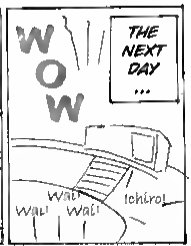
SWEET HOME.

To Home--End

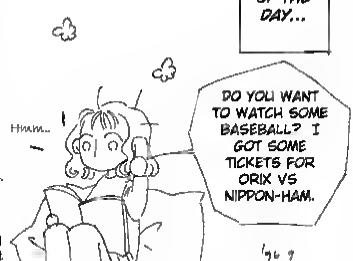
The Present State of Affairs.

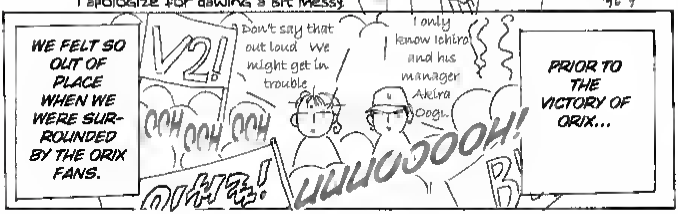

WITH ZERO KNOWLEDGE OF BASEBALL, WE DECIDED TO GO SEE THE GAME.
ME NEITHER. I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHICH LEAGUE ORIX IS IN.
But I don't know anything about baseball.
HEY!

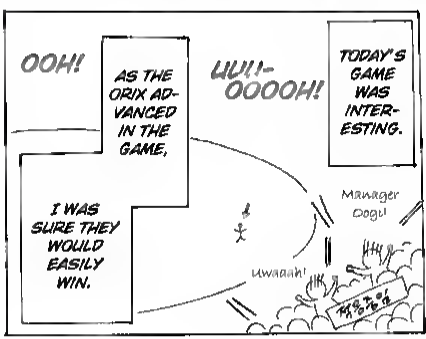




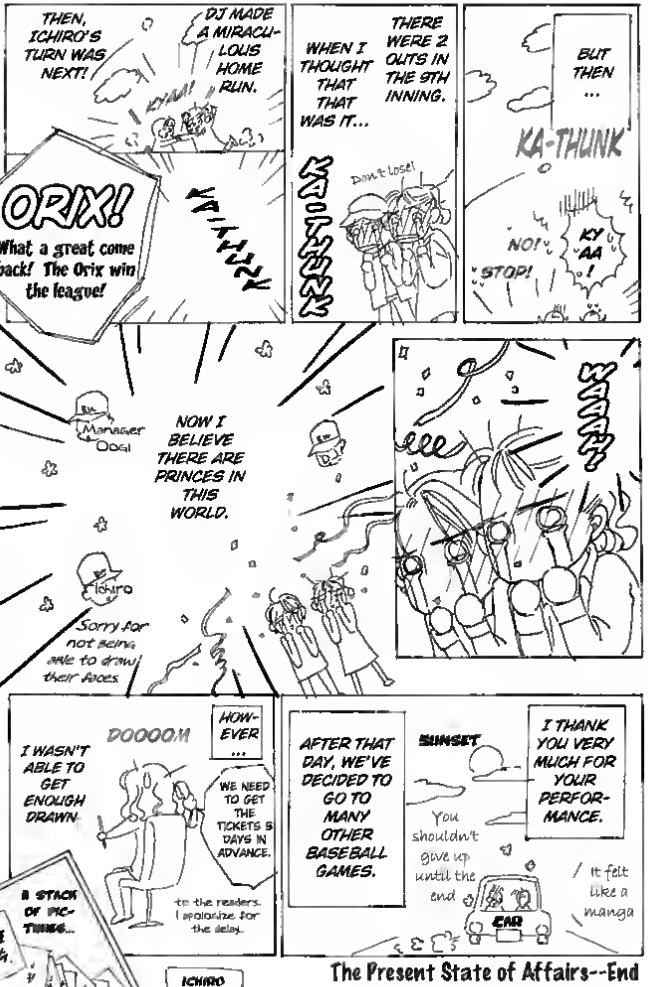
I apologize for drawing a bit messy.



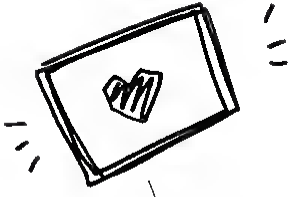

WE FELT SO OUT OF PLACE WHEN WE WERE SURROUNDED BY THE ORIX FANS.
V2!
OOH OOH OOH
Don't say that out loud We might get in trouble
I only know Ichiro and his manager Akira Oogi.
UUUOOOH!
PRIOR TO THE VICTORY OF ORIX...



The Present State of Affairs


THEN, ICHIRO'S TURN WAS NEXT!
DJ MADE A MIRACULOUS HOME RUN.
KYAA!
ORIX!
What a great come back! The Orix win the league!
KA-THUNK
WHEN I THOUGHT THAT THAT WAS IT...
THERE WERE 2 OUTS IN THE 9TH INNING.
KA-THUNK
Don't lose!
BUT THEN ...
KA-THUNK
NO!
STOP!
KYAA!
Mr. Manager Oogi
NOW I BELIEVE THERE ARE PRINCES IN THIS WORLD.
MIYAVI
Ichiro
Sorry for not being able to draw their faces.
I WASN'T ABLE TO GET ENOUGH DRAWN.
DOOOOM
HOWEVER ...
WE NEED TO GET THE TICKETS 5 DAYS IN ADVANCE.
to the readers. I apologize for the delay.
A STACK OF TICKETS...
ICHIRO
AFTER THAT DAY, WE'VE DECIDED TO GO TO MANY OTHER BASEBALL GAMES.
SUNSET
You shouldn't give up until the end
I THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR PERFORMANCE.
It felt like a manga
CAR

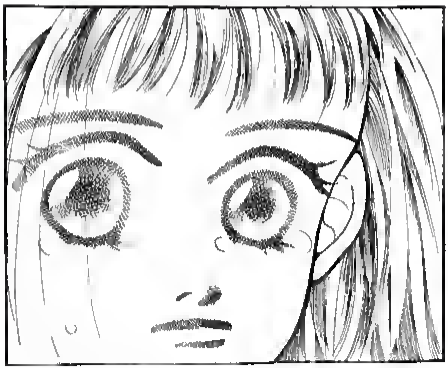
The Present State of Affairs--End



Special Thanks with Love

'96 10 29

芦原妃名子



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히나코의 사랑이야기 시리즈 ①

Homemade Home

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저자 : ASHIHARA Hinako
역자 : 최미애
발행인 : 김인규
출판사업본부장 : 황민호
편집장 : 박중규
책임편집 : 성민신 / 김지연 / 김혜명 / 공미선
발행처 : 대원씨아이(주)
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